THE NEW
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'NAGAR KIRTAN' TO HONOUR GURU

Sikh devotees participate in a 'Nagar Kirtan' procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, in Patna on Sunday. Thousands of devotees took part in the procession. Nagar Kirtan is a tradition that involves the processional singing of holy hymns in a residential area | PTI

DADLS-76

18वां प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
18TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
8th-10th January 2025

विकसित भारत की संकल्पना में प्रवासी भारतीयों का योगदान
DIASPORA'S CONTRIBUTION TO A VIKSIT BHARAT

Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

ODISHA GEARS UP TO HOST THE WORLD!

18th

PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CONVENTION

8th - 10th January, 2025 | Bhubaneswar

- The flagship event commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915 on 9th January
- Indian Diaspora is of 35.4 million, comprising 19.5 million PIOs and 15.8 million NRIs
- The Nation lauds the contribution of the Indian Diaspora in various fields to both India and their host countries
- More than 7500 delegates to attend the grand event
- 27 Diaspora members will be honoured with the prestigious "Pravasi Bharatiya Samman" award

Join us in applauding the Indian Diaspora's Legacy and Contribution for a Viksit Bharat

Visit us at

atithi devo bhava

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha

OIPR- 15001/13/0347/2425

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: 903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-4/MT-61/24-25/CYS-58 Date: 03.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites tender for the following works:

(1) Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT1282/CALL-2 for replacement of Age-old & Faulty Diesel Generating Set by new at 220kV SRS, KPTCL, Hubballi on Total Turnkey Basis.

(2) Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT1228/CALL-2 for Erection of New Bus Coupler and Adaptor Panel for Bank-3 of MEI make 110/11kV, 500 MVA 25kA, 1600A BC, 1-Panel(Bottom Entry Type) Adaptor Panel MCVCB HT SB at **110/11kV S/s, PH Compound**, KPTCL, Hubballi in TL&SS Division, Hubballi **on Partial Turnkey Basis.**

(3) Tender No: KPTCL/2024-25/SE0914/CALL-2 for providing services for carrying out shift duties and operations at 110kV Sub-Station Kadanakoppa as per Annexure-1.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "KPPP" mode can be obtained by logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 06.01.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),Tr. (W & M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidyuthnagar, Karwar Road, Hubballi - 580 024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI.M.V.BALAJI** S/o Sri.M.V.Manjunath, residing at: No.128, 1st Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru – 5600018

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.122 (PID No.46-3-122), 123 (PID No.46-3-123) and 123/1 (PID No.46-3-123/1), measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 108ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Albert Victor Road, Chamarajpete, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Private property
West by : Private property
North by : Road
South by : Conservancy

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

HDFC BANK LIMITED

HDFC BANK

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Lokesha V (Borrower), Shahi Exports Private Limited, Designation:** Assistant Manager, **Department:** PPC, 13/14/15 Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd, Sarjapur Main Road, Beladur Gate, Near Fire Station, Bengaluru 560103. **Also at:** # 1, 66/11, Old Madras Road, K V N G E F Station, KPTCL, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru 560016. **Also at:** Unit-180, Vishwa Prajna Housing Society, S No 172/1,2,3,4,5,6,7 And Others, Kasaba Hobli, Kesare Village, Mysore 570007.	**Loan A/c Nos. (1) 659020241 Rs.10,14,370/- (2) 660245189 Rs.26,250/- Total Amount Rs.10,40,620/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Only) as on 31.10.2024**	**18.12.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2024**	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.745/180,** Grama Panchayat Unique code No.52200431032020566 to carved out in Sy.Nos.172/1, 172/2, 172/3, 172/4, 172/5, 172/6, 172/7, 183/1, 183/2, 183/3, 183/4, 183/4, 183/5, 183/6, 183/7, 183/8, 182/1A, 182/1B1, 182/1B2, 182/1C, 182/1D1, 182/D2, 182/2, 182/3, and 182/4 totally measuring 14 Acre 10 Guntas formed by Vishwapraghna House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., Mysore situated at Kesare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk.Boundaries: **East :** Road, **West** : Site No.175, **North** : Site bearing No.181, **South** : Site bearing No.179. Measurement East to West 12.00 Meters and North to South 9.00 Meters, Along with House Constructed thereon, present and future
2	**Mr. Majage Deepak (Borrower)** No 304, S 12, Neo Town, 3rd Floor, Electronic City Phase 1, Electronics City, Bengaluru 560100 **Also at:** No 1/87, Maroor, Bidar 585413. **Also at:** World Education Centre, **Designation:** Proprietor No 310, 3rd Floor, House of Lords, St Marks Road, Richmond Town, Bengaluru 560025. **Also at:** No S040203 2nd Floor, Block-S04, Neo Tow Smondoville, S No 155/8,275,276/1, Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli,Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bengaluru 562106.	**Loan A/c Nos. 628862188 Rs.29,94,316/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred and Sixteen Only) as on 30.11.2024**	**27.12.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.01.2024**	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel for the property being land converted for residential purposes (vide Official Memorandums dated: 15th October, 2008 and 22nd December, both bearing Nos. BDS:ALN (AJ) SR 183/07-08 and ALN (AJ) SR 54/2009- 10 respectively, both issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore aggregating to 9 Acres 19 Guntas, viz., (4,12,952 sq.ft) land bearing Katha No. 399/155/8 (formed out of erstwhile Sy. No. 155/8) measuring 5 Acres 1 Guntas, land bearing Katha No. 398/276/1 (formed out of erstwhile Sy. No. 276/1) measuring 3 Acres 23 Guntas and land bearing Katha No. 400/275 (formed out of erstwhile Sy. No. 275) measuring 35 Guntas, situated at Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the; **East by :** Remaining portion of land in the same Sy.No.275 & 276, **West by :** Sy.No. 155/7 of Hulimangala Village; **North by :** Sy.No. 155/9 and remaining portion of land in the same Sy. Nos.276/1 and 275 of Hulimangala Village; **South by** : Road and remaining portion of land in the same Sy. Nos.276/1 and 275 of Hulimangala Village. **Schedule B : A 2 BHK Delux Apartment bearing No.S04-0203,** on the **Second Floor of S04 T**ower forming part of the Building, constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property with a **super built-up area of 995.00 Square Feet,** (92.44 Square Meters) which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use, with **1 Closed Car Parking area** / right space bearing No. S04-CP-04 (as demarcated in Annexure-3) and bounded on:- **East by** : Flat NO.S04-205, **West by** : Open Space, **North by** : Open Space, **South by** : Stair Case. **Schedule C :** As undivided **0.0953%** (Point Zero Nine Five Three percent) share in the equivalent to **393.66 Square Feet (36.57 Square Meters)** in the Schedule 'A' Property.
3	**Mr. Tendulkar Chetan Narayan (Borrower)** B 403/406, Chandresh Kaveri Society, Near Kalyan Shil Road, Lodha Office, Shirdhon, Nilse Kalyan Thane, Maharashtra 421204. **Also at:** VRD Network & Communication Private Limited, **Designation:** Compliance/Governance **Department:** IT, **Employee No:** GRD232IT No 127 Vaishali Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462003. **Also at:** BT-24 B, 3rd Floor, Block-B, Ittina Neela (Block- B) Apartment, Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli,Anekal Tq, Bangalore 562106	**Loan A/c Nos. 621032738 Rs.18,83,258/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) as on 30.11.2024**	**27.12.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.08.2024**	**Schedule –A:** All that piece and parcel of properties bearing (1) Sy.No.5/3, measuring 2 Acres 27 Guntas of Land (2) Sy.No.46, measuring 2 Acres of Land (3) Sy.No.47, measuring 2 Acres of Land and (4) Sy.No.48, measuring 2 acres of Land, totally measuring 8 acres 27 Guntas of Land, excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, converted for non agricultural residential purpose through the conversion order bearing No.BDS/ALN/SR (A) 66/2001-02 dated 26.02.2003 and bounded on : **East by :** Property Bearing Sy.Nos.46 And 5/4, **West by :** Property Bearing Sy.Nos.49 And 5/1, **North by :** Property Bearing Sy.Nos.5/2, 5/4 And 5/5, **South by :** Property bearing Sy.No.45. **Schedule –B:** All that Residential Apartment bearing **No.BT 24, Property No. I79/BT/24, Property ID No.150200100600700114 [as per RDPR] in Third Floor in Block 'B' of "ITTINA NEELA"** built in schedule 'A' property and measuring **1000 Sq.feet [92.90 Sq.mtrs] of super built up area** inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with **300 Sq.feet** undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in schedule 'A' property and a **covered car parking space** and in the said apartment the doors are made of flush doors and steel windows and mosaic flooring.
4	**Mr. Saheba Gowda (Borrower)** 263/A 1st Floor, U G Naidu Complex, Hebbagodi VI, Hosur Main Road, Hebbagodi Village, Bangalore-Electronic City, Opp to Biocon Near HP Petrol Bunk, Bengaluru 560100. **Also at:** No 120, 4th Cross, Center Jail Road Left Side, Channakeshava Nagar, Bengaluru 560100 **Mr. Saheba Gowda (Borrower)** MR Vikram Security Force, **Designation:** Proprietor **M/S MR Vikram Security Force (Co-Borrower)** Represented by Saheba Gowda **Designation:** Proprietor **Both are residing at:** Sait No 98/01/15, L M Complex, Kammasandra, Bangalore-Electronic City, Bengaluru- 560100. **Also at:** Flat-208-Block-H, 2nd Floor, Icon Happy Living, S No 97, Kamsandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 560100.	**Loan A/c Nos. 1) 637016220 Rs.18,35,343/- 2) 638479280 Rs. 56,508/- Total Amount: Rs.18,91,851/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One Only) as on 30.11.2024**	**27.12.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.10.2023**	**Schedule A:** All that piece and parcel of the residential converted land in **Survey No.97** measuring to an extent of 3 acre 6 guntas, situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, (converted for nonagricultural residential use as per conversion order bearing No SR(A)77/2000-01, dated 27.02.2001 and No.ALN.SR(A)62/2005-06, dated 04.02.2006, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bengaluru District, Bengaluru), and bounded on: **East by :** Raja Kaluve, **West by :** Hebbagodi Village Boundary, 30 feet Road and Private Properties, **North by :** Private Property Survey No.98/2, **South by :** Private Property Survey No.96/2. **Schedule B: 425.97 Square feet.** of Undivided Share of Land from and out of Schedule A Property. **Schedule C:** Residential Apartment admeasuring **674 Square Feet,** or thereabouts of **super built up area,** inclusive of common area] bearing Flat No.208, in the Second Floor, H Block of the building called **"ICON HAPPY LIVING"**, together with **H 208 number Covered car Parking space.**
5	**Mr. Jagetiya Vijay (Borrower)** Velankani Software Private Limited **Designation:** Senior Software Engineer **Department:** IT, **Employee No:** 681 # 43 Electronics City Phase -II, Hosur Road, Bangalore 560100. **Mr. Jagetiya Vijay (Borrower) Mrs. Jagetiya Bhawana (Co-Borrower) Both are residing at:** Flat-G-9, Ground Floor, Aashrayaa Serenity, Sy.No.2/3, Nayanappana halli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560068.	**Loan A/c Nos. 618616081 Rs.22,50,932/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Two Only) as on 30.11.2024**	**27.12.2024** .... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.09.2024**	**Schedule I :** All that piece and parcel of contiguous property bearing the BBMP Khatha No.171/167/144/2/3/15, 18A,16, 17, 18, 19, 20 admeasuring 18,420 sq ft, after road widening net area of 16,980 sq ft situated at Nayanappanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore and bounded by: **East** : Road, **West** : Private Property, **North** : Road, **South** : Road and Private Property. **Schedule II:** All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat bearing **No.G-9,** situated at **Ground Floor** constructed in the Schedule "I" Property in the building namely **"AASHRAYAA SERENITY"** Apartments having **Super Built up area 1171 Square Feet (108.79) Square Mtrs)** with undivided share of Square Feet 257.62 (23.93 Square Mtrs) in Schedule "I" Property (more description of Flat in Annexure I) along with **One Car Parking** situated in the Cellar Floor of the Said Building. **Boundaries For The Flat: East :** Open to Sky, **West :** Corridor, **North :** Open to Sky, **South :** Flat No G-10.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 06.01.2025
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public and Industry is hereby informed that Sri Balaji S (Operation Manager) and Sri Vinodh Kumar (Area Officer) are no longer working in SMC Integrated Facility Management Solutions Ltd., Bangalore Office with effect from JUNE 2023.

The above-mentioned AID will not have any authority to enter any transaction / business or receive money or represent on behalf of SMC Integrated Facility Management Solutions Ltd.,.

Please note that SMC Integrated Facility Management Solutions Ltd., shall not be responsible for any action, debt, commitment or deeds done or for any losses/liabilities suffered by anyone dealing with the above-mentioned AID

Any one dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk. For any information / queries, please contact /coordinate with SMC Integrated Facility Management Solutions Ltd., office directly.

SMC Integrated Facility Management Solutions Ltd.,
(formerly service master clean limited)
No.208, 2nd floor, Ramanashree Arcade,
18, M.G.Road, Bangalore 560 001
Phone No : +91 11 6134 5555
E mail id : hr@smc-india.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public that my client B.Harish Babu, S/o.Byrappa, has negotiated with Mr.Sathya Prakash.M and his wife Smt.Madhuri.M to purchase the schedule property for a valuable sale consideration and if anyone is having any right, claim or interest over the same or any objection for said transaction, the same may be intimated to me with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of publishing this notice, failing which sale transaction will be completed and any objection received thereafter will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.178, Khatha No.446/178 carved out in the converted land bearing Survey No.98/1 and 98/2 vide DC Order No. BDS.ALN.SR(A)SR:138/2004-05, layout called R.K. Township, situated at Yerandahalli village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West: 50 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally measuring to an extent of 1500 square feet and bounded on the:

East by : Site Nos.189 and 190,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.179,
South by : Site No.1177

JANARDHAN.G, Advocate
No. 4/14, 1st Floor, K.Kamaraj Road,
Bangalore-560042. Mob: 9448360409

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Ph : 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.88,39,175/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Five only)** as on **30-11-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **01-12-2024** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Suhas, S/o. Mr. Suresh Babu, No.425/21-1, 4th Cross, Near Rani Park, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. No.2) Mrs. Rupa Suresh, W/o. Mr. Suresh Babu, No.425/21-1, 4th Cross, Near Rani Park, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560027. No.3) Mr. Rakesh Kiran, S/o. Mr. Murali Mohan, 19/335/E, S4-3, Muneshwara Layout, Devinagar, RMV Extension II Stage, Bangalore - 560094.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
(Properties Owned by Mr. Suhas, S/o. Mr. Suresh Babu)

Schedule - A : All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land vide Conversion Order BDS ALN SR(S) 229/2003-04 dated 29-10-2003 by Special Deputy Commissioner in Sy.No.116/1, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring 1,01,227 Sq.ft., and bounded on the:- Within BBMP Limits. East by - Private Property, West by - Manipal County, North by - Road, South by - Private Property. **Schedule - B :** An undivided share of 509 Sq.ft., comprised in Schedule A Property. **Schedule - C :** Flat bearing No.A 507 in the Fifth Floor of the building complex known as Malibu Enclave being constructed on the Schedule - A property consisting of 2 Bedrooms having super built-up area of 1,273 Sq.ft., with One Car Parking. Boundaries:- East by - Driveway, West by - Staircase and OTS, North by - Corridor, South by - Flat No.510.

Reserve Price : Rs.45,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Five Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS	
Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
24-01-2025	**City Union Bank Limited, Bangalore- R.T. Nagar Branch,** 590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032, Karnataka. Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No.9342855177.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bangalore - R.T. Nagar Branch, 590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032, Karnataka. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No.9342855177. (5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 04-01-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:CEE/TRZ/TKR/EE(Civil)/24-25/Cys-28 Date: 02.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against bid enquiry number mentioned below:

(1) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1731 for Construction of Compound wall to newly constructed office complex premises, at NEC, Tumakuru. Amount put to tender(Appx.)(Excl. of GST): **Rs. 3388842.41.** EMD: **Rs. 33,900/-.** Category: **ST.**

(2) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1748 for Construction of boundary Compound wall to KPTCL Colony at Sira in Tumakuru Dist (Balance Portion). Amount put to tender(Appx.)(Excl. of GST): **Rs. 3382543.42,** EMD: **Rs. 67,700/-.** Category: **Others.**

(3) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1751 for Providing RCC road at 66/11KV Sub-Station colony at Sira in Tumakuru Dist. Amount put to tender(Appx.)(Excl. of GST): **Rs. 2964607.17.** EMD: **Rs. 29,700/-.** Category: **SC.**

(4) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1753 for Providing RCC road at 66/11KV Sub-Station colony at Tipturu in Tumakuru Dist (Phase-1). Amount put to tender (Appx.) (Excl. of GST): **Rs. 2954590.03,** EMD: **Rs. 59,100/-.** Category: **Others.**

(5) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1756 for Providing RCC road at 66/11KV Sub-Station colony at Pavagada in Tumakuru Dist. Amount put to tender (Appx.) (Excl. of GST): **Rs. 2965545.07,** EMD: **Rs. 29,700/-.** Category: **SC.**

(6) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1757 for Providing Entrance arch, Gate, watchmen booth and allied work at newly constructed office complex at NEC, Tumakuru. Amount put to tender (Appx.) (Excl. of GST): **Rs. 2537936.20,** EMD: **Rs. 50,800/-.** Category: **Others.**

(7) Indent no: KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1758 for Construction of vehicle parking shelter for 4 wheeler and 2 wheelers parking for newly constructed office complex at NEC, Tumakuru. Amount put to tender (Appx.) (Excl. of GST): **Rs. 2964725.13,** EMD: **Rs. 59,300/-.** Category: **Others.**

For all the above works Time allowed for completion of work(Incl. Monsoon period): **03 (Three months).**

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.01.2025 @ 11.00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/-Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru-572 103, Ph: 0816-2279074.

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಕುದೇರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಚೆ, ಸಂತೇಮರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ - 571 316
ದೂರವಾಣಿ :08226-234848, E-mail: purchamul@gmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಕುದೇರು ಡೇರಿಯ ಯು.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಯು.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ ಹಾಲಿನ **PROCESSING, PACKING, LOADING, UNLOADING** ಮತ್ತು ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವೈ-ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹುಂಡು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **ESI** ಮತ್ತು **PF** ಕೋಡ್ ನಂ. ಹೊಂದಿರುವ, ಸೇವಾ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ವೃತ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪರವಾನಗಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖೇನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಈ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

(ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KMF/2024-25/SE3048)

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು(ಆಡಳಿತ/ಖರೀದಿ-ಮೊ.ಸಂ:7760968421) ರವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar, Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru – 56

No.: BU/E-Gov/Tenders-ADV-28/2024-25 **Date: 03.01.2025**

E-Tender Notification

Bangalore University invites bids for the following tenders through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.** Details of the tenders are available at e-procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted electronically at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Bidders are requested to adhere to the time schedule prescribed in the tender.

Sl. No.	Description of the Tender
1	Supply and Installation of Apple/M2 MacBook Air Laptop to SC/ST Cell (CALL-3)
2	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Conference System to the Syndicate Hall of First Floor, Administrative Block, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University (CALL-2)
3	Annual Maintenance Contract of Campus Wide Networking of Bangalore University (CALL-2)
4	Supply and Installation of Water jacketed Carbon dioxide Incubator and Thermal Cycler to the Department of Microbiology & Biotechnology, Bangalore University under VGST Project
5	Providing Flooring, False Ceiling, Toilet construction and painting to the Chairman room of Library and Information Science Dept. Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University
6	Upgradation of Class Room capacity by Dismantling walls & providing UPVC windows & Wooden Doors with necessary Electrical works at Room No.2 & 04, Department of MCA, Bangalore University,
7	Sinking of Borewell water supply lines and electrical works at PG-5 Hostel, JB Campus, Bangalore University

DIPR/CP/4108/SSC/2024-25 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Ph : 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No.194, Ground Floor, S.C.Road, Near Netkallappa Circle, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru Urban - 560004, Bengaluru-Basavanagudi Branch,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **22-10-2024** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) M/s. Sree Jyothi Engineering Works, No.292, 1st C Cross, Kasthuri Badavane, Rajagopala Nagar, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058. No.2) Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy, No.292, 1st C Cross, Near Maruthi Theatre, Kasturi Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058. No.3) Mr. R. Dasna Murthy, S/o. Mr. Rajgopal, No.292, 1st C Cross, Near Maruthi Theatre, Kasturi Layout, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560058** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.1,03,06,423/-(Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Three only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **16-10-2024** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 02nd day of January 2025.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.1,06,09,990/- (Rupees One Crore Six Lakh Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety only)** and interest thereon from **02-01-2025** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.74/79/120, Khatha No.79/120, Eastern Portion of Site No.79, Situated at 1st "C" Cross, Kasturi Layout, Rajagopal Nagar, Bangalore Urban District, previously Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits, Ward No.70 and bounded on : East by : Remaining portion of Site No.79, West by : Site No.78, North by : 30 Feet Road and South by : Property No.87. Total Measuring 600 Sq.ft. (15 x 40).

Property - 2 : (Property Owned by Mrs. Jyothi, W/o. Mr. Dasna Murthy)

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.2, Assessment No.120, Laggere Khatha No.120/2, Situated at Bangalore Uttara Taluk, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Dasarahalli, comes under BBMP Limits Situated at 1st "C" Cross, Kasturi Layout, Rajagopal Nagar, Bangalore Urban District, previously Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under BBMP limits Ward No.70. Measuring : East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet. Totally measuring 1,200 Sq.ft. along with RCC Roofed House and bounded on : East by : Site No.03, West by : Site No.01, North by : Road and South by : Site No.07.

Place : Bengaluru, Date : 02-01-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE (W&M)/HSN/EE (O)/DCA/AEE(C)/2024-25/4757-60 Dated : 01.01.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tender from eligible Bidders for the following works through KPPP mode.

1. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/14 for Construction of Boundary Compound wall and other allied works at 66/11kV S/s Premises at Halebeedu(Phase-2) in Belur Taluk, Hassan Dist.

2. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/15 for Construction of Boundary Compound wall and other allied works at 66/11kV S/s Premises Magge (Phase-2) in Alur Taluk, Hassan Dist.

3. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024/16 for Construction of Boundary Compound wall and other allied works at 66/11kV S/s Premises Ballupete in SK Pura Taluk, Hassan Dist.

4. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/17 for Construction of Boundary Compound wall and other allied works at 110/11kV S/s Premises Kallusadarahalli in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan Dist.

5. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/18 for Construction of Boundary Compound wall and other allied works at 110/11kV S/s Premises Kondenalu in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan Dist.

6. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/19 for Drilling of Bore well and Providing water supply to 66/11kV Substation Shanthigrama in Hassan Taluk, Hassan Dist.

7. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/20 for Construction of Security Compound Wall and other allied works at 66/11kV sub-station and office premises at HN pura in HN Pura Taluk Hassan Dist (Reserved to SC Category)

8. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/21 for Providing RCC Road and drain at 66/11 kV substation at CR Patna in CR Patna Taluk, (Reserved to SC Category)

9. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/22 for Providing RCC Road and drain at 66/11 kV substation at Hirisave in CR Patna Taluk, (Reserved to ST Category)

10. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/23 for Providing RCC Road and drain at 66/11 kV substation at Ramanathpura in Arakalgud Taluk.

11. Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2024-25/24 for Replacement of Existing deteriorated Chain link Security fencing at 66/11kV S/s Hagare in Belur Taluk.

The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.00 PM on 06.01.2025.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road,Hassan – 573201

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 06, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS TO BE HELD IN BHUBANESWAR FROM JAN 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu will arrive in the city on January 8 to attend the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

EVENT BEING HELD IN ODISHA FOR THE FIRST TIME

The three-day convention will begin on January 8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the event on January 9. A large number of overseas Indians, including top businessmen, entrepreneurs and economists, from over 50 countries are expected to participate. This is the first time that the convention is being held in the state of Odisha

DIASPORA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

- The theme of the convention is 'Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat'. President Murmu will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 on select members of the Indian diaspora
- Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the chief guest. She will address the convention virtually | P9

2003

WHEN PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS WAS OBSERVED FOR THE FIRST TIME

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

FRESH WOUND FOR INDIA, REPERCUSSIONS ON CARDS?

India fall in Bumrah's absence; focus on Gambhir & seniors after yet another series loss

GOMESH S @ Sydney

IT all seemed doomed the moment Jasprit Bumrah walked out of the field here during the fifth and final Test on Saturday. Signs were ominous. There were scans followed by silence. So much was riding on Bumrah the entire series that his absence for a few hours seemed like an eternity.

The lead-up to the final Test match of the five-Test series here was not ideal after the Melbourne drubbing. There were reports of a distressed dressing room followed by India skipper Rohit Sharma's decision to 'rest' due to failure of form. Sunday was another melancholic day for Indian cricket. The last four wickets fell for 16 runs, setting up a target of 162 runs. Without Bumrah, Aussies had a psychological edge.

Being Bumrah seemed very difficult on Sunday when the Indian team marched out without him. India were staring at inevitability. Without Bumrah the attack lost its teeth as India pacers huffed and puffed to find the rhythm.

Australia, despite a few hiccups, had a stranglehold on the contest. Bumrah stood helpless as the TV cameras occasionally panned on him. The stand-in skipper, who bossed the show with the ball in the Border Gavaskar Trophy with 32 wickets in 9 innings, eventually had a resigned look on his face as Aussies won the match by six wickets and the series 3-1. The focus is now on some of the senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit and support staff. With India's second consecutive Test series loss, there could potentially be some shake-ups. Head coach Gautam Gambhir too would be facing some hard questions. The whitewash three Test series loss against New Zealand would be the added burden for him.

Even Sharma's future would be discussed. Gambhir felt it was too early to speak about any changes. "It's too early to talk about it. The series just got over. I think we still have five more months to plan where we want to head towards. But it's not the right moment right now for me to talk about where we are going to be after five months. A lot of things change in sport. So let's see before the England series what's going to happen. But whatever will happen, will happen for the best interest of Indian cricket," Gambhir said.

On the evidence of the series, India had multiple issues. Lack of big totals in the first innings, preference of batting depth over fielding five frontline bowlers, struggling seniors, lack of proper planning...the list goes on. Come England series, India will be hoping to regain order and get back to winning ways.

Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma (foreground) during the presentation ceremony after the fifth and final Test of the BGT in Sydney, on Sunday | AFP

> **A little disappointing that I probably missed out on the spiciest wicket of the series but that's the way it is. I felt a bit of discomfort during my second spell in the first innings**
>
> Jasprit Bumrah, India stand-in skipper

2014-15 This is the first BGT for Australia since 2014-15 series. India had won the last four series before this (twice each in Australia and India)

TN CM MK Stalin and others during the conference commemorating the centenary of the discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation in Chennai on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

$1m prize for cracking Indus script, says Stalin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday announced a prize of one million US dollars (₹8.57 crore) to any individual or any organisation which aids in deciphering the Indus Valley Script which remains a mystery even after a century since its discovery by Sir John Marshal, the then Director General of the Archaeological Survey Of India.

Stalin said this would encourage the efforts of archaeologists and Tamil linguistic scholars and technological experts across the globe who are working to decipher the writing system of the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC).

Stalin made the announcement after inaugurating a three-day international conference in Chennai commemorating the centenary of the discovery of IVC. He also released a book titled 'Indus Signs and Graffiti Marks of Tamil Nadu: A Morphological Study', authored by Professor K Rajan and Dr R Sivanantham.

Stalin announced that the Tamil Nadu government will provide ₹2 crore to establish a chair by the archaeology department in association with the IVC Research Centre of the Roja Muthaiah Library in the name of late archaeologist and epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan to undertake research on IVC.

"When comparing the symbols on seals used for commercial purposes in IVC and symbols found in excavations in Tamil Nadu, 60% of them are found to be identical. Our archaeologists have stablished that the symbols engraved on pottery used by the people in the Indus Valley and symbols engraved on pottery found in Tamil Nadu are found to be at most 90% identical," he said. P7

IIM-B student found dead on campus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 28-year-old Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIMB) postgraduate student died after he accidentally fell from the second floor of the hostel building on the campus located on Bannerghatta Road in Bengaluru.

The deceased has been identified as **Nilay Kailashbhai Patel**, a second-year MBA student. He hailed from Gujarat.

The police said the incident happened on Saturday night when Patel was returning to his room after celebrating his birthday at a friend's room on the campus.

The police said that the incident came to light when Patel's body was found by a security guard at around 6.45 am on Sunday. A preliminary probe has established that Patel, whose birthday was on Saturday, had gone to celebrate his birthday at a friend's room in a different block of the hostel on the campus. He left the friend's room at around 11.30 pm and returned to his room in 'F' Block. P5

EXPRESS READ

Rescue workers at the crash site at Porbandar airport on Sunday | PTI

Coast Guard chopper crashes in Guj, 3 crew members killed

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

THREE crew members of an advanced light helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) of the Indian Coast Guard were killed when the chopper crashed and caught fire at Gujarat's Porbandar airport on Sunday. The chopper, which was on a routine training sortie, went down while trying to land on the runway. An inquiry has been launched to determine what led to the accident.

According to an Indian Coast Guard statement, the ALH MK-III helicopter 859 met with a mishap at Porbandar airport runway at 12.15 pm on Friday. It said the helicopter had two pilots and one air crew diver. The crew were rushed to the Porbandar government hospital, where they were declared brought dead. "The reasons leading to the incident are being investigated by a Board of Inquiry," the statement read.

The crew members killed are Commandant (JG) Saurabh, Deputy Commandant SK Yadav, and Pradhan Navik Manoj.

The incident comes four months after another Coast Guard helicopter crashed into the Arabian Sea off Porbandar, killing three crew members. The September 2024 crash occurred during a critical evacuation mission, as the helicopter was attempting to rescue an injured man from the oil tanker Hari Leela, situated nearly 30 nautical miles from Porbandar.

ALH-Dhruv is a twin engine, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter. So far, HAL has produced over 340 Dhruv helicopters.

Writer Na D'Souza passes away at 87

Shivamogga: Kannada novelist and writer, Na D'Souza, 87, passed away at a hospital in Mangaluru on Sunday. He was admitted to Father Muller Hospital on January 3 and died due to kidney failure at 7.49 pm on Sunday. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter | P7

Four Maoists killed, 1 jawan martyred in Chhattisgarh encounter

Raipur: Four Maoists and a jawan were killed during an encounter in south Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Sunday. "Based on specific inputs, a joint team of District Reserve Guard personnel from four Maoist-affected districts of Bastar division along with the Special Task Force left on the search operation on Saturday. In the ongoing encounter, bodies of four Maoists have so far been recovered from the spot," a police officer in Bastar | P10

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 06.01.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
• Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Sapthami 6.41 pm
• Nakshatra: Uttharabhadra 7.49 pm • Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 12°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Mostly sunny.

Sunrise 06.43 am
Sunset 06.07 pm
Moonrise 11.36 am
Moonset 12.07 pm

BUS FARE HIKE SPARKS AUTO FARE WOES IN CITY

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

WITH bus fares hiked by 15 per cent, autorickshaw drivers who had been pressing the transport department to revise fares, have already started demanding more money from passengers. As the bus fare hike came into effect from Saturday midnight, commuters on Sunday complained that autos are overcharging.

"Many autos operating in the city are not going by the metre and people are struggling to find autos. With the bus fare hike, this has come as another big blow. We get autos, only if we agree to pay whatever the drivers demand," complained a regular auto user.

Voicing out their struggles, Prashanth, an auto driver said, "While the auto fares have remained the same, operational costs have increased year after year. Auto fares were revised in 2023 in Shivamogga, Mangaluru and Udupi, but Bengaluru, which has a much higher cost of living has not increased the fares. How are we supposed to operate our autos with the existing fares? Government must revise the fares soon." Meanwhile, auto unions like Autorickshaw Driver's Union (ARDU), Adarsh Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union and others have been urging the transport department to revise auto fares. General Secretary of ARDU, Rudra Murthy agreeing that autos are demanding more money post the bus fare hike, said "Autos are struggling to operate under the current fare. We have been repeatedly requesting the government to revise the fare and make it an annual exercise. If this is done, a majority of the autos will be more than willing to go by the metre."

The minimum metre fare should be revised from the existing Rs 30 per km to Rs 40 for the first two kilometres. Every subsequent kilometre should be revised from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per kilometre, he said. Officials from the transport department said that a meeting called on fare revision in December has been postponed and a call will be taken soon.

Auto drivers: Fares remained same but operational costs increased year after year

Forum moots parking fee on all roads, congestion tax

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), a passenger forum, has urged Karnataka government to withdraw the 15% bus fare hike and insisted that it explore other options such as levying congestion tax and parking fees to raise revenue.

They also urged that the State Government drop the idea of constructing big-ticket projects like tunnel roads and signal-free corridors and use the same money to strengthen the bus system. They demanded more buses, expanding bus services, creating exclusive bus lanes, and making travel by bus more affordable.

"The recent bus fare hike announced by Karnataka government is unfair and unjust. When the need of the hour is more buses and free public transport, the government is instead trying to discourage public transport by increasing bus fares. The fare hike will hit the working class hard. For the majority of the working class, the bus is their lifeline. It is unfair to penalise them for using public transport. We fear that those bus-users who own two-wheelers may move back to two-wheelers. Those bus users who are using premium services may also move back towards private vehicles," BBPV stated in a press release on Sunday.

Mentioning that the government look at other ways to increase revenue as the increase in bus fare will make public transport more inaccessible, BBPV listed practical options to raise revenue for buses and public transport.

They suggested levying parking fees on all roads and levying congestion fee on private vehicle users, especially during peak hours. They also suggested instituting a traffic cess for private companies based on the extent of private transport use for office commutes by their employees.

"The State Government should stop all futile infrastructure projects like tunnel roads and flyovers as such projects have been proven to be ineffective in addressing traffic congestion. Solutions to Bengaluru's traffic problems are bus priority lanes and more buses. Hence, we demand that the government fund more of these projects focused on prioritising bus-based public transport," the forum added.

Auto fares were revised in 2023 in cities like Shivamogga, Mangaluru and Udupi, but Bengaluru, which has a much higher cost of living has not increased the fares — Prashanth, an auto driver

'Chitra Santhe brings people closer to traditions'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THERE should be a work of art in every home, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, calling on Bengalureans to support artists at the 22nd Chitra Santhe.

Inaugurating the event on Sunday, the CM praised its unique role in showcasing Karnataka's heritage while fostering a vibrant artistic ecosystem. "Chitra Santhe is not just an art fair, it is a cultural phenomenon that brings people closer to traditions and heritage. I have not seen such an event anywhere in the world," Siddaramaiah remarked, highlighting the participation of artists from 22 states.

Organised by Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, the art fair turned Kumara Krupa Road into a vibrant open-air gallery. This year's theme, the girl child, was brought to life by artists who re-imagined women in roles traditionally dominated by men, and celebrating women and their contributions to society.

The event, which attracts over four lakh visitors in a single day, offers art lovers an opportunity to buy art and support the creative community. "Art is a reflection of people's lives, their culture and heritage. Chitrakala Parishath is doing exemplary work in preserving this through initiatives like Chitra Santhe," he added.

Highlighting the importance of women empowerment, he stated, "Educating a woman is like educating an entire family." Reflecting on Shakti and Gruha Lakshmi schemes, Siddaramaiah emphasised the government's efforts to uplift women.

Artwork highlights

Chitra Santhe showcased a vibrant mix of styles, including dot and oil paintings, devotional and watercolour creations. Traditional Mysuru, Tanjore, Rajasthani and Madhubani artworks stood alongside modern and contemporary pieces. Prices started at Rs 300 and went as high as Rs 7lakh.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with CKP President BL Shankar and others at the inauguration of Chitra Sante at CKP on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

The Rs 7lakh paintings, by Jeevan S from Coimbatore, captured the annual ritual of Lord Kallazhagar at the Chithirai festival in Madurai. The 8x6 sqft canvas, which took him a year to complete, showcases the cultural significance of this Tamil Nadu tradition.

People were welcomed by a 35-ft sculpture of a girl child's face, entirely crafted from cardboard sheets, by 200 students, teachers, and staff.

Another highlight was the collection of paintings by artist Parasuraman A, who only paints female characters, to challenge the belief that men are inherently stronger. One of Parasuraman's paintings, depicting a woman single-handedly taming bulls during Tamil Nadu's Jallikattu tradition, captivated visitors; it was priced at Rs 5 lakh.

CHECKMATE!

Youngest Indian Chess Grandmaster Gukesh Dommaraju with Padma Vibhushan awardee and Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand during an interaction session in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

A letter to PMO on 'unsafe' road gets NHAI to address it

RITIKA MITRA @Bengaluru

A citizen's appeal to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has prompted the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to take action on road safety and infrastructure issues along the 35-km stretch of NH44 beyond Bengaluru airport junction. This crucial route connects major destinations like Chikkaballapur, Ballari, Anantpur, Hyderabad and others and serves lakhs of commuters daily.

Anilkumar J, a regular traveller on the aforementioned route, highlighted critical issues such as non-functional lamp posts, faded lane markings, missing safety sign boards, and lack of hazard and speed-breaker signs. He also complained that there are traffic congestion at key intersections like Doddaballapur Cross and Devanahalli Cross.

He wrote to the PMO on November 24, 2024, detailing the urgent need for intervention. In his complaint, he proposed several measures to address the safety concerns on the NH44 stretch, including installing solar-powered lights along the median to improve nighttime visibility and placing reflectors along road boundaries and medians for better guidance. He also suggested the installation of reflector-enhanced speed-breakers at critical points and the placement of hazard and signboards at strategic locations to alert drivers effectively.

Additionally, he recommended constructing subways at high-traffic zones like Doddaballapur Cross and Devanahalli Cross. Lastly, he emphasised the importance of biannual repainting of lane markings to ensure clarity and enhance road safety.

The PMO responded promptly, directing the NHAI to address the issue. NHAI has now initiated measures to enhance road safety, and improve infrastructure on NH 44.

The grievance was taken up by NHAI's Project Implementation Unit, Bengaluru and the the authority said that overlay works are currently in progress, with plans to install safety furniture, including signboards, reflectors, and updated lane markings, upon completion.

In their official communication to Anilkumar dated December 30, 2024, NHAI stated, "Once completed, all necessary road furniture will be in place." "The intervention highlights the power of citizen participation in governance. With the infrastructure enhancements now underway, the NH44 stretch is set to provide safer and smoother travel for commuters," he added.

Road works in progress along the 35-km stretch of NH44 beyond B'luru airport junction

AGENCIES ACCELERATE CIVIC WORKS AHEAD OF AERO INDIA

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

With a little over a month to go for Aero India 2025, civic agencies are gearing up to cater to the requirements of lakhs of visitors and participants. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Public Works Department (PWD) are upgrading roads leading to the Air Force Station at Yelahanka while the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is readying itself to supply nearly 25 million litres of Cauvery water during the five-day event. This aero show will be held from February 10 to 14.

The chief secretary has already held a couple of meetings with the civic agencies to assess their preparedness. Every agency has appointed a special nodal officer for the event.

"We have been given to understand that anywhere between 4 million and 5 million litres per day (MLD) of Cauvery water would be the requirement for the air show. We are in a position to totally supply 25 MLD of water for it. We will be adjusting our water supply and sending it across. There is a dedicated water pipeline for the Air Force and the water would be transported through it," a BWSSB source told TNIE. Also, recycled water for non-potable purposes will be supplied through the tertiary treatment plant.

Ongoing road works on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road| EXPRESS

BBMP Engineer-in-Chief BS Prahalad said that the agency will be spending Rs 15 crore to upgrade roads. "We were planning to improve them anyway but are quickening the pace of work now due to the upcoming air show. By January 30, we will complete work in three important roads totalling 18.5 km which are crucial ones leading to the venue," he added.

Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road running for nearly 13 km from Rajajinagar and Mahalakshmi Layout to Yelahanka is a vital link for those heading from the western part of the city. "A total of 7 km of the road is in a good condition. We will be asphalting the remaining stretch as the road has been cut at many places and it could cost us Rs 10 crore. We will also be creating lane markings at Bagalur Main Road for 3.5 km and at Kogilu Road for a 2-km stretch," he said.

Prahlad added that the PWD will be upgrading a few roads which fall outside the BBMP limits.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

06TH January: Energetic alignments are prominent today. That's good for people who have a packed schedule not so much for those of us who fancy a rest. If I could offer these people some general advice, then it would be take a back seat whenever ambitious types step forward to take the reins. Let them shoulder the responsibility if they want it!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Although financial pressures and plans are still very much on your mind, you can afford to put a few possible developments off until later. You're so full of good ideas that all you need now is a little extra confidence. And a little more tact!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's time for a fresh start. Emotional and psychological spring-cleaning should encourage you to put the past behind you and face the future with an open heart. You seem to be keeping a secret, and may have to hang on for just a little while longer.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You might have to come into the open, so have your story ready and make sure you're capable of making yourself understood. Throughout the day you should find that your self-esteem is restored, and that it's no longer necessary to take refuge in your daydreams.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's quite a good moment to keep yourself to yourself, to have time and space to listen to your imagination and conscience. You may even consider cancelling a social engagement. But before you take any precipitate action, realise that when the time comes, your feelings might have moved on.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may feel as if you are being forced to do something against your will or against your dignity. However, the best advice now is to press ahead and concentrate on making colleagues see your point of view. Gentle persuasion might work better than brute force. In fact, I'm sure it will!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You will soon be afforded a splendid chance to travel to somewhere you've never been before. In any event, you'll do yourself a very big favour if you extend and develop all contacts with companions in distant parts and people from different cultures.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Problems of a partnership or matrimonial nature ought now to be faced. You should find that once you talk about your concerns, they begin to disappear and your innate sense of well-being returns. An old expense is bugging you, but it's also time to collect a debt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Much as you'd like to be the centre of attention, you still have no choice but to listen to other people, understand their feelings and try to satisfy their desires. Financial choices are now appearing, but there is no need for a final decision just yet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
When dealing with finances and business or property matters, you should make a point of being as clear-headed as you can. Your heart tells you one thing, your wallet another, so seek expert advice. This is not a good time to give people the wrong idea about your intentions, so make sure you're not misunderstood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
This looks like a busy day, and it's time to call on your more versatile talents. In view of emotional complications, it seems likely that you'll have to juggle different balls in the air at the same time. It may not be easy, especially if a friend or colleague backs out of a commitment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Favourable planetary alignments are perfectly balanced by challenging ones, which means that you could have the best of both worlds. This should also be an ideal moment to put your plans into practice. Thought and action should go hand in hand, with your heart and your head leading you in the same direction.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
If you are feeling at all isolated or confused it is because your planetary cycles are now changing and you are being obliged to stand on your own two feet, emotionally speaking. In future you will have to rely more on your own resources and less on support from outside.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

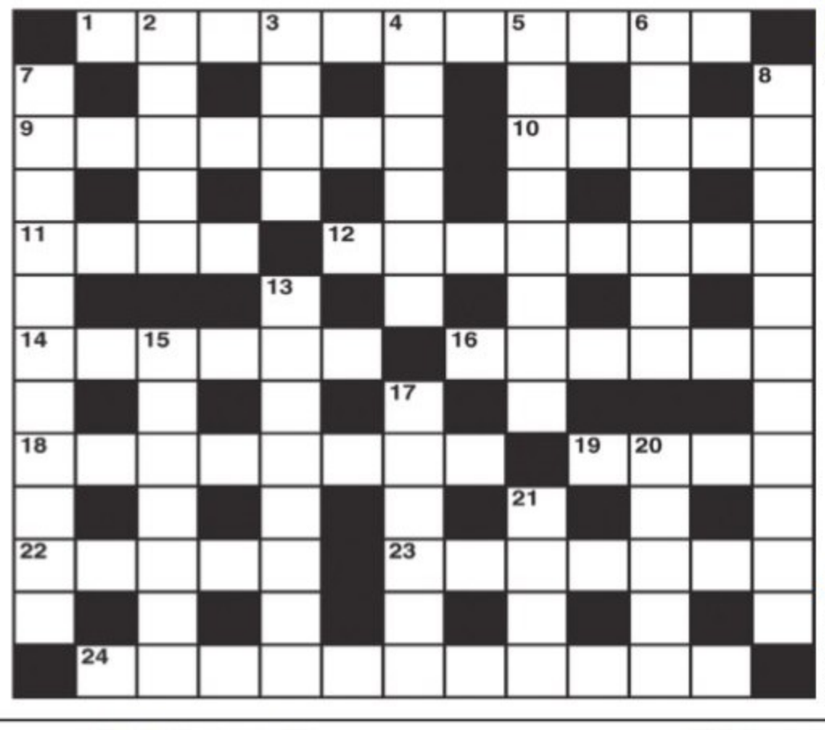
		5		6				4
1	6	4		9				
7	9			5		6		8
	5		2	3				
		7	9		1	4		
				7	6		3	
5		8		4			6	9
				1		5	4	2
4				2		8		

1	5	4	3	7	2	8	6	9
6	3	9	5	8	1	7	2	4
8	2	7	9	6	4	3	1	5
2	7	6	1	4	3	9	5	8
5	8	1	7	2	9	4	3	6
4	9	3	8	5	6	2	7	1
9	1	5	4	3	7	6	8	2
7	6	8	2	9	5	1	4	3
3	4	2	6	1	8	5	9	7

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 He puts a full stop at the end of a sentence (11)
9 Cheering eggs it on perhaps (7)
10 Defence of the absent (5)
11 Very plain feature? (4)
12 Minding someone else's business? (8)
14 Be unsure of key in third movement (6)
16 Pick one out, get one free (6)
18 Ten girls gone astray yet still of excellent character (8)
19 Left to wander idly round but happy (4)
22 Cryptic clue about northern relative (5)
23 Row about stray dog (7)
24 Didn't succeed in crossing the ice? (4,7)

DOWN
2 They can provide inside information about a complaint (1-4)
3 It could retain hair or cut it off (4)
4 Temporary shelter in which there's an occupant (6)
5 One who talks one round to composing some music (8)
6 Paper work I'd get in order (7)
7 Proceeded to argue like Siamese Twins? (6,5)
8 Top campanologists? (11)
13 Twin bores? Fancy that! (4,4)
15 Eastern claret turns out to be a very sweet concoction (7)
17 Grab a bit of sleep perhaps (6)
20 Telling stories in bed? (5)
21 Famous ship is short of freight (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Betray, 4 Offshoot, 9 Calico, 10 Previous, 12 Argo, 13 Shape, 14 Frau, 17 Chatterboxes, 20 House of cards, 23 Even, 24 Ogham, 25 Race, 28 Receipts, 29 Copout, 30 Hillside, 31 Plates.

Down: 1 By chance, 2 Telegram, 3 Arch, 5 Firm proposal, 6 Save, 7 Odours, 8 Tissue, 11 Short-sighted, 15 Stood, 16 Reach, 18 Break-out, 19 Asbestos, 21 Search, 22 Pencil, 26 Pigs, 27 Soul.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

DVOIE

EHPES

LZIFEZ

ETGTNO

How can that be? I made the map myself! Dig deeper!
I'm not finding anything.
WHEN THE PIRATE REALIZED THE TREASURE WASN'T BURIED WHERE HIS MAP INDICATED, ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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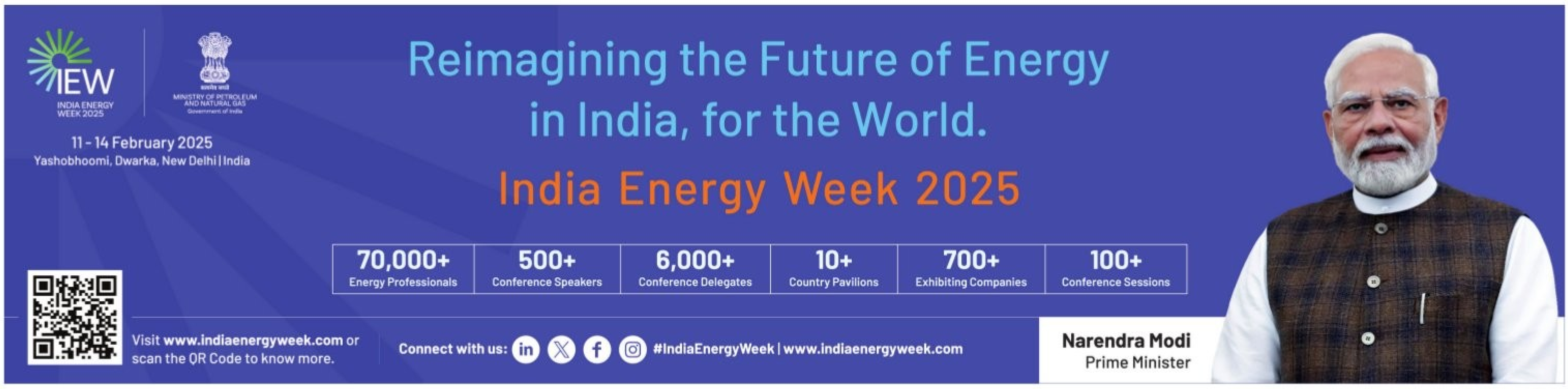
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TOPAZ VIPER MUFFIN WISELY
Answer: The chef who enjoyed using seasonings to create bold flavors had a — ZEST FOR LIFE



B'LURU SEES DROP IN PUBLIC SMOKING, CHALLENGES REMAIN

BAVANA THALATHOTI VINOD
@Bengaluru

ACCORDING to the data from the city police, cases of public smoking saw a significant decrease in Bengaluru in 2024 with only 37,883 cases reported as against 45,783 cases in 2023. In contrast, only 20,976 violations were witnessed in 2022.

Experts, however, argue that despite this significant drop in the cases, challenges still persist particularly from the tobacco industry, which interferes with policies, exploits loopholes, and reimburses vendors who violate public smoking laws, undermining the laws.

A senior police officer, on condition of anonymity, attributed this reduction to the efforts of the city police, who have shifted their focus on both enforcement and creating awareness. "We have increased patrolling in violation-prone areas like parks, bus stops, and marketplaces," the officer said.

Speaking to *TNIE,* Dr US Vishal Rao, member of the high power committee on tobacco control set up by the Karnataka government, said that shops selling tobacco products around schools and other educational institutions are still a concern, as it violates Section 6 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA Act) which prohibits sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions.

"It is a cause of concern when shops sell tobacco products around school and educational institutions as it targets youngsters, who later become future customers of tobacco products," he said.

Further, Dr Vishal explained that passive smoking is another major health concern, which exposes non-smokers to over 6,000 chemicals, and increases the chances of cancer, heart diseases, and lung disorders. Besides, it also affects children, making them prone to severe health risks such as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), he said.

Experts point out that while there has been significant progress in the reduction of public smoking, strict enforcement, campaigns and collaboration with government, and civil society is needed for a tobacco-free society.

NO. OF VIOLATIONS

YEAR	CASES
2024	37,883
2023	45,783
2022	20,976

(Data: Crime Records Bureau)

Shops selling tobacco products around schools are still a concern

Dr US Vishal Rao, committee on tobacco control

Men kick Dalit boy in groin for playing Ambedkar song

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tumakuru

A Dalit youth was left with a serious injury after two caste Hindus allegedly assaulted him for playing a song on Dr BR Ambedkar in a milk procurement van he was travelling in. The assault took place at Gidada Muddanahalli village in Gubbi taluk on Saturday evening.

The victim Deepu (19), a student from Sirivara village in Tumakuru Rural, who was tasked with procurement of milk from farmers, was travelling with the van driver Narasimha Murthy. Around 6pm, the accused, Chandrashekar, a gangman with Indian Railways, and his accomplice Narasimharaju, waylaid the van, pretending to be RPF personnel. They questioned the victim for playing a song on Ambedkar from the serial 'Mahanayaka'.

They asked for the victim's caste and when he revealed that he was from SC-Madiga community (Dalit caste), they dragged both Deepu and Narasimha Murthy out of the van and assaulted them. The accused kicked Deepu in his groin, leaving him with a severe injury. When he shouted in pain, a crowd gathered and shifted him to the government hospital in Gubbi town.

Deepu undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Gubbi town of Tumakuru district | EXPRESS

"Doctors saved his life. He has got nine stitches and is out of danger," said Deepu's uncle Srinivas. Dalit organisation members approached police on Sunday, following which the accused were booked under Section 307 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Gubbi police sub-inspector Sunil told *TNIE* that the accused are absconding. SP KV Ashok said stringent action will be taken and the case will be investigated thoroughly.

BACK TO FREEDOM

After nearly five hours, a 30-year-old tusker, which got stuck between two concrete pillars of a rail barricade at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve in Hunsur taluk on Saturday night, was freed by foresters on Sunday. Villagers heard the tusker trumpeting in distress and alerted the forest department. An earthmover was used to pull one of the pillars aside and free the animal | EXPRESS

Drunk man strangles mom to death, kills self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a heart-wrenching incident, a 21-year-old youth, under the influence of alcohol, allegedly strangled his mother with a mobile charging cable, and later ended his own life by hanging, at their residence in Old Chandapura on the outskirts of the city, on Saturday night.

The deceased has been identified as Lakshmi Devi (41), a daily wage worker, whose son Ramesh worked as a hotel employee. Lakshmi is survived by her husband, a security guard, and another son. The family, originally from Chitradurga, was residing in Old Chandapura in Surya City.

Police sources said Lakshmi and Ramesh got into a heated argument after Ramesh came home intoxicated on Saturday night. Ramesh, who often drank and argued with his mother, lost control and in a fit of rage, strangled her with a mobile charging cable. After committing the crime, he hanged himself from the ceiling fan. Family members who later visited the house found both Ramesh and Lakshmi dead, and alerted the police.

A case was registered and investigation is on to ascertain the reason behind the deaths.

Student forum seeks clarity from IIMB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"IT is suspected that Patel may have lost balance and accidentally fell from the second floor while returning to his room," the police said. Based on a complaint filed by Patel's relative, who arrived in Bengaluru on Sunday evening, the police registered a case of unnatural death. Further investigation is on.

Following the incident, the IIM-B, in a statement, said, "A bright student and a much-loved friend to many, Nilay will be sorely missed by the entire IIMB family. In this difficult time, we request consideration, respect, and privacy for him and his family."

Following the incident, the All-India OBC Students Association has demanded that the institution provide clarity on the issue. The association stressed that the institution lacks sufficient mechanisms to address the concerns of marginalised communities, a matter they have consistently raised.

EXPRESS READ

Drug peddler held, booked under NDPS Act

Bengaluru: The Chamarajpet police arrested a 32-year-old habitual drug peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act. The accused, has been identified as Syed Chand Pasha, alias Chand Pasha, a resident of Valmiki Nagar. Police sources said Pasha had been smuggling drugs since 2015, and 13 cases related to drug peddling and an attempt to murder case has been registered against him in various police stations. He has been lodged in Bengaluru Central Prison. **ENS**

2 infants die after vaccination in Tumakuru

Tumakuru: Two infants died following the administration of the pentavalent vaccine at two health centres in Kunigal taluk on Thursday and Friday. In the first case, a two-month-old girl, Yashika, daughter of Vinod and Ranjitha, was vaccinated at a health centre in Kote on Thursday and died on Friday. In another case, a two-and-a-half-month-old boy, who received the vaccine at a health centre in Bhaktarahalli, also died shortly after. A team of experts visited the centres on Saturday and collected samples for analysis. **ENS**

ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿದೆ

ಬಿದರಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪೂರ್ವ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು- 560049 ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಅವರ ಹೆಂಡತಿಯಾದ ಸುಮಾರು 45 (ನಲವತ್ತೈದು) ವರ್ಷ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಅರುಣಾ.ಬಿ.ಜೆ. ಆದ ನಾನು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ: ಅದಾಗಿ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಚಂದ್ರಕಲಾ, ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಪ್ರದೀಪ್, ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಶಶಿಕಲಾ ಎಂಬುವವರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಕಾವತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ 19ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್‌ನ 9.00 x 12.00 ಮೀಟರ್ ಅಳತೆಯ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 770/ಬಿ ನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿಯವರಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಅರುಣಾ.ಬಿ.ಜೆ. ಆದ ನಾನು ಶುದ್ಧಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ಮೂಲಕ ಖರೀದಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಸದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಖಾತಾ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಿ ಮನವಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಖಾತಾ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಹ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುರುವ ಮೂಲ ಖಾತಾ ಪತ್ರವು ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಎಷ್ಟೇ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಪಟ್ಟು ಹುಡುಕಿದರೂ ಸಹ ನನಗೆ ಸದರಿ ದಾಖಲೆಯು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ದಾಖಲೆ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಬದ್ಧಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ದೂರನ್ನು ಸಹ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಂಟೆ ತಕರಾರುಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನೇ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತೇನೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ದಯಮಾಡಿ ಸದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಖಾತಾ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಈ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಗಳು ನನಗೆ ತಿಳಿದ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸತ್ಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋ.ಇ, ಉಡುಪಿ ವಿಭಾಗ – ಉಡುಪಿ – 576101,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ & ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : (0820) 2531802

ನಂ: ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ: ಯುಡಿಎನ್: ಎನ್‌ಐಟಿ: 30: 2024–25: ಎಇ–2
ದಿ: 04.01.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರೂ. 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೊತ್ತದ 5054 – ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ 'ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್' "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ಫರೆನ್ಸಿ ಇನ್ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆಕ್ಟ್ – 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರೂಪಿತ ಶರ್ತಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಉಡುಪಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to Inform the General Public, My Client Smt. K. KANTHAMMA, Aged about 58 years, Wife of Sri. K. Srinivasulu, Residing at : No. 20, Riches Garden Road, Kalkere, Bangalore - 560 043, had lost the Original Sale Deed, Document No. 03896/1997-98 of Book-1, Dated : 23-07-1997, Volume 1451 at Pages 9-21, Registered in the Office of the Sub Registrar, K. R. Puram, Bangalore.

Property bearing **Site. No. 1**, House List Khatha No. 256/1, Property No. 400, Situated at **KALKERE VILLAGE,** K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 40 Feet** and **North to South 15 Feet** measuring in all **600 Sq. Feet** and bounded on:-

East by : Private Property, West by : 25 Feet Road, North by : Previous Owners Krishnappa's and Brothers Property, South by : Remaining Site. No. 1.

If found please contact
PRADEEP.M, B. Com, LLB, Advocate
No. 182, Old KEB Road, Anjaneya Temple Street, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 9945332706, 8123323172

SITE FOR SALE

Commercial Property
Site for sale
40 x 60 E Khata, West facing commercial site for sale Hegganahalli (Bus Stop) Magadi Main Road.
Contact immediately
9900103030

PUBLIC NOTICE

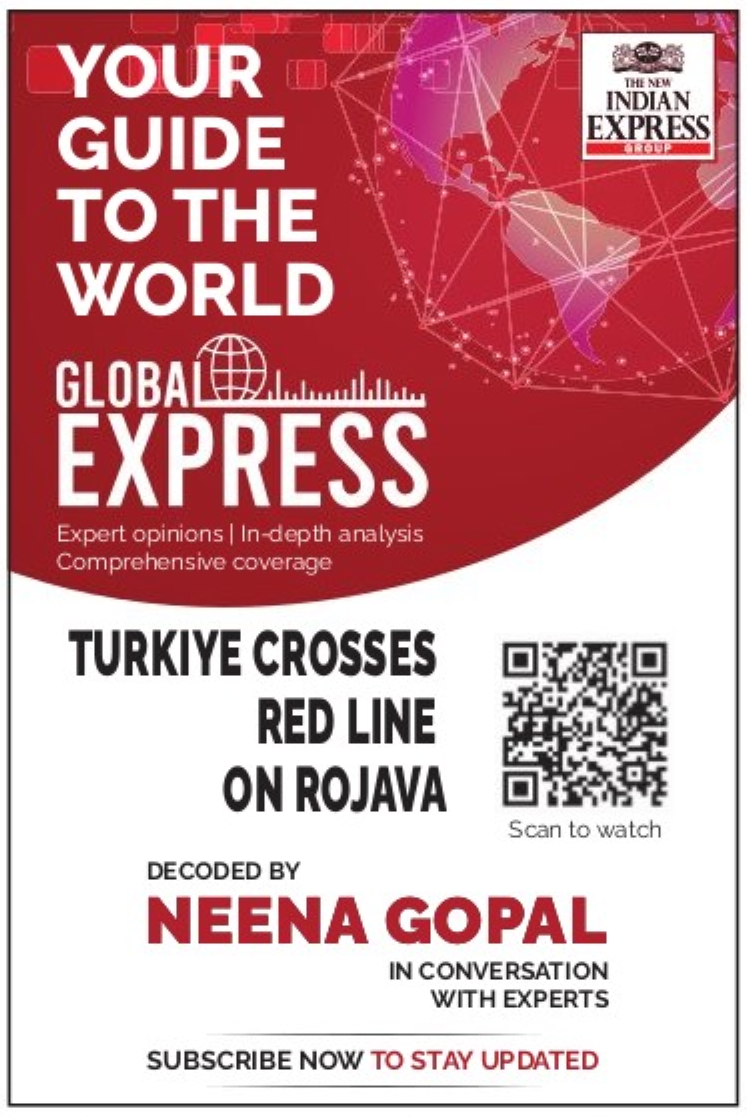
It is hereby notified that, our client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **M/s.GDN Estates LLP.,** having its registered office at No.222/14, Gokaldas Chambers, 3rd Floor, 5th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080, represented by **Mr.Dinesh J. Hinduja,** Designated Partner. If any person/s has/have any manner of claim/s, right/s, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the attested photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **15 days** from date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Industrial Site bearing **No.29, BBMP E-Aasthi No. 5670127200, Yelahanka 1st Stage Extension, Industrial Area, Bangalore-560064,** measuring East to West 220+150/2 feet and North to South 310+290/2 feet, in all measuring 55,500 Sq.feet, together with three (3) industrial Sheds measuring a total built up area of about **30,700 Sq.ft.** and bounded as follows:

East by : 40 feet Road
West by : Site No.30
North by : 30 feet proposed Road
South by : 40 feet Road

Sd/-
R.NAGARAJ
ADVOCATE
Room No.16, 2nd Floor, No.64/1, Lakshmi Commercial Complex 1st Main Road, Seshadripuram Bangalore-560020. M: 9901075696



QuoteExpress

IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING

WINSTON CHURCHILL

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF VILUPPURAM
I.A. No. 6 OF 2023 in
O.S. No. 198 OF 2019

R. Siva Kumar and another ... **PETITIONERS**
-V/s-
A.Sanjay, S/o.Dr.P.Ashokkumar, residing at No.44/1B, 18th Cross Street, 60 feet Main Road, Malagala, Viswaneedam, Bangalore-560091. ... **13TH RESPONDENT**

It is represented that the above named petitioners have been filed a petition under Order 9 Rule 9 of CPC, against you and others, numbered as I.A. No.6/2023 in O.S. No.198/2019, in the file of Hon'ble Principal District Court, Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu, posted to **24-01-2025**, for your notice and appearance and ordered to appear before this Court on said date at 10.30 AM without fail, if not appeared the Court will proceed further in your absence.

Advocate for Petitioners:
R. ARANGANATHAN
Mobile No. 9789710144.

RBL BANK LTD
Registered Office: 1st Lane, Shahpuri, Kolhapur-416001.
Branch Office: Prestige Towers, 3rd Floor, 99 And 100, Residency Road, Bangalore, Karnataka.560025, Tel: (O) 8548044568.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

The Authorised officer of RBL Bank Ltd. under Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notice calling upon Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from receipt of the said notice.

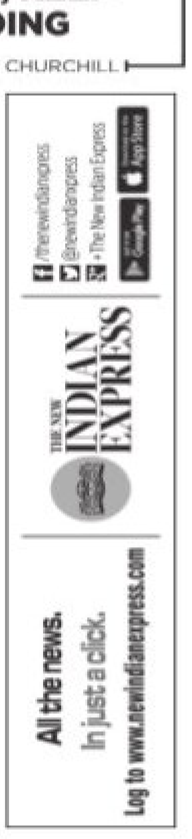
The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **RBL Bank Ltd.** has taken "**Physical Possession**" of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules as per detail below:

Name of Account and Address of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Demand Notice date	Amount Due (Rs.)	Date of Possession
1) **M/s. The Other Side,** Rep by its Authorised Signatory Mrs. Prathibha Siyal, No.207, 2 A Cross, Domlur Stage II, Bangalore-560071. **(Borrower)** & 2) **Mrs. Prathibha Siyal,** No.153, Narayan Pillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Borrower), Also:** 3) **Mr. Suresh Siyal,** No.153, Narayanpillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Co-Borrower), 4) Mr. Subash Siyal,** No. 153, Narayan Pillai Street, Neharu Puram, Bharathi Nagar, Bangalore-560001 **(Co-Borrower & Mortgagor).**	20.03.2024	**Rs.Rs.3,22,66,597.77/-** (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Two Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven and Paise Seventy Seven Only) **as on 09.02.2024** With further interest and charges thereon.	3rd January - 2025

Description of the immovable property: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.153, situated at Narayana Pillaiah Street, Bangalore, presently within the limits of BBMP, and bounded on: **East by:** Narayan Pillaiah Street; **West by:** Property No.171 Sepping Road; **North by:** Property No.154ma; **South by:** Property No.152. **Measuring:** East West 37+9.25 Ft on the West 40.5 Ft on the North 36+28+17.5+67 Ft on the south 82+42+25 Ft, in all measuring 4185 Sq.Ft and building constructed thereon, within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration office.

The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **RBL Bank Ltd.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 03-01-2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer, RBL BANK LTD



IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, RANIPET, RANIPET DISTRICT.
O.S. No. 43/2022

Lakshmi and Others ...**Plaintiffs**
-Vs-
Manoharan & Others ...**Defendants**

To,
Sheela @ Uma, W/o Mathappa, Residing at NO: 152-A, 4th Block, 5th Main Road, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka State.

The suit above named plaintiffs filed the above suit before this Hon'ble Court. The above suit stands posted on for your appearance in person or through your pleader to raise your objection if any. You are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 03.02.2025 at 10:30 AM** and to file your objection if any either in person or through your Advocate. If you failed to appear on the day and time mentioned above the matter will be decided Exparte in your absence. BY

M. ARUN KUAMR, BE.,LLB
ADVOCATE, WALAJAPET
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS
CELL No. 8807984071

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / **CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR**
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / **SRIHARIKOTA - 524124**

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./ e- Tender Notice No: SHAR/CMD/E/K2487211/2024-25, SHAR/CMD/E/L2487212/2024-25 तिथि/ Date. 02.01.2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **"1.एसडीएससी शार के फेज–2 क्षेत्र में मुख्य वितरण पैनलों एवं उप वितरण पैनलों के प्रतिस्थापन का कार्य दूसरे चरण में है।(विद्युतीय कार्य)"** (अनुमानित लागत: ₹45.47 लाख) **2. एसडीएससी शार की फेज–2 कालोनी में भूमिगत तारों के प्रतिस्थापन का कार्य दूसरे चरण में है।** (विद्युतीय कार्य) (अनुमानित लागत: ₹32.03 लाख) के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **23.01.2025** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।

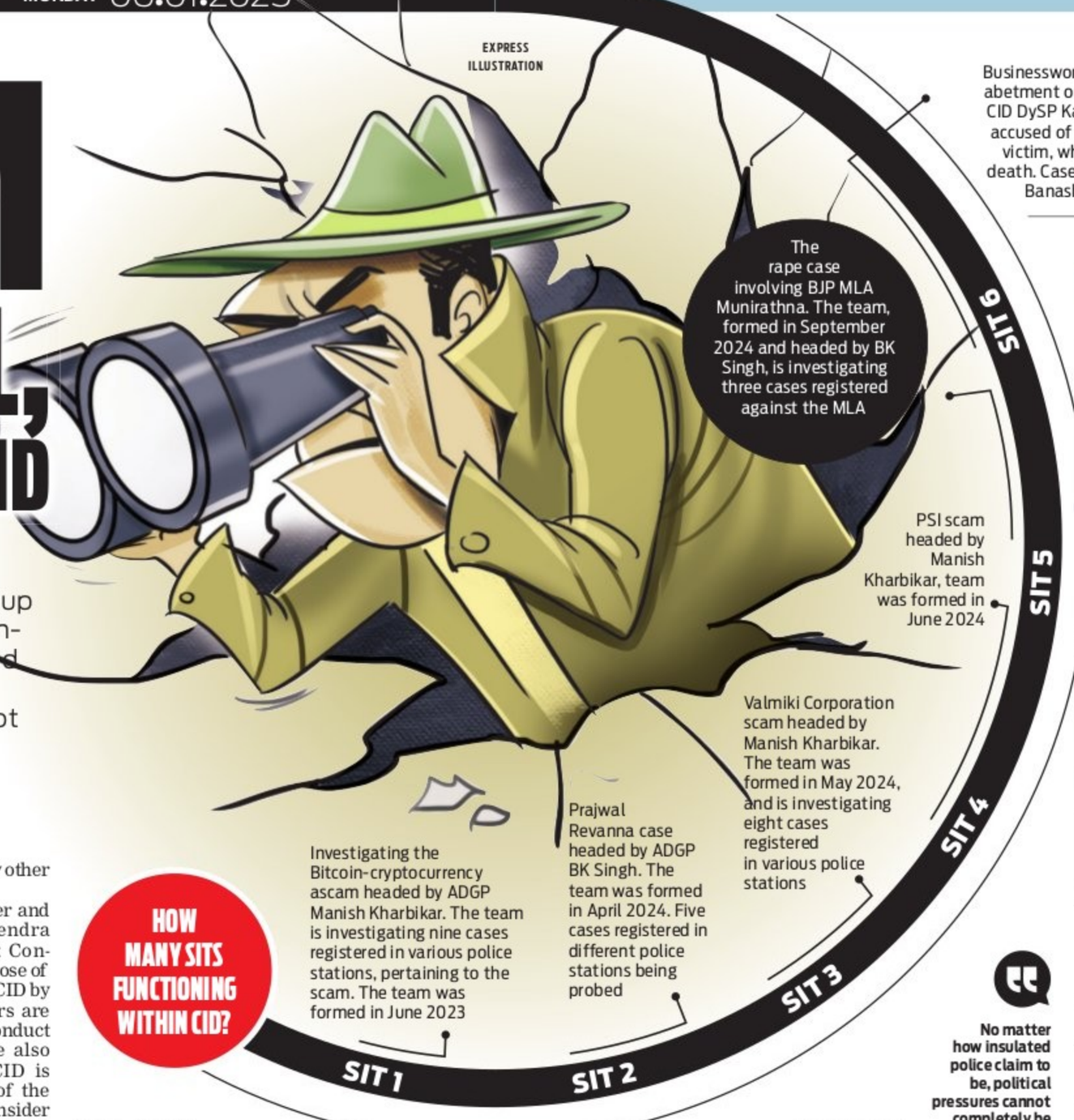
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"1.Replacement of main distribution panels and sub distribution panels work at PHC-II area at SDSC SHAR under Phase-II (Electrical work)"** (Estimated cost: ₹45.47 Lakhs) **2. Replacement of underground cables work at PHC-II colony at SDSC SHAR under Phase-II (Electrical work)** (Estimated cost: ₹32.03 Lakhs) Tender documents can be downloaded up to **23.01.2025, 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated that the government is committed to providing internal reservation. "The Supreme Court said internal reservation has to be given, but as some have said that there is no empirical data. So, a commission has been formed, headed by Justice Nagmohan Das," he said

SCAM OR SCANDAL, ALL CASES GO TO CID

Congress government sets up SITs to probe high-profile cases, amid allegations that investigation is not impartial and officers are not given a free hand


EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION
HOW MANY SITS FUNCTIONING WITHIN CID?
SIT 1
SIT 2
SIT 3
SIT 4
SIT 5
SIT 6
Investigating the Bitcoin-cryptocurrency ascam headed by ADGP Manish Kharbikar. The team is investigating nine cases registered in various police stations, pertaining to the scam. The team was formed in June 2023
Prajwal Revanna case headed by ADGP BK Singh. The team was formed in April 2024. Five cases registered in different police stations being probed
Valmiki Corporation scam headed by Manish Kharbikar. The team was formed in May 2024, and is investigating eight cases registered in various police stations
PSI scam headed by Manish Kharbikar, team was formed in June 2024
The rape case involving BJP MLA Munirathna. The team, formed in September 2024 and headed by BK Singh, is investigating three cases registered against the MLA
Businesswoman S Jeeva's abetment of suicide case. CID DySP Kanakalakshmi accused of harassing the victim, which led to her death. Case registered by Banashankari police

HIGH-PROFILE CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION

1 Prajwal Revanna Case

2 Suraj Revanna Case

3 Valmiki Corporation scam

4 Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation scam

5 Murder case of 23-year-old Neha Hiremath in Hubballi

No matter how insulated police claim to be, political pressures cannot completely be weaned away. CID, to a large extent, is meant to be away from such pressures that can colour investigation. The strength of its reputation rests on the investigation it conducts and evidence it gathers. The litmus test is the court trial

— CID officer

BIG PICTURE

PRAVEEN KUMAR

THERE is an increasing trend of the State Government transferring high-profile criminal cases to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Due to the gravity of some cases, the state government even forms Special Investigation Teams (SIT) to handle them.

Last year, almost all important cases were transferred to the CID, including the Prajwal Revanna sexual exploitation case, former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa's alleged POCSO case, Valmiki Corporation scam, former minister and BJP MLA Munirathna's alleged rape case, murder case of 23-year-old Neha Hiremath by her former classmate at BVB College of Engineering and Technology in Hubballi, abetment of suicide case of businesswoman 33-year-old S Jeeva in connection with the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC) scam.

With so many cases transferred to the CID, the question arises whether the probe will be impartial. Can the understaffed CID investigate so many cases? How different is the CID police from regular police?

CID is a specialised group of officers, mostly from the rank of Inspector and above. It is an investigation agency and does not work like a regular police station which looks into law and order and also investigates cases registered at the police station on a daily basis.

Officers in the CID do not have to compulsorily wear uniform. They do not investigate more than one case at a time. Except for election duty, CID officers are not used for any other policing duty.

Former Home Minister and BJP MLA Araga Jnanendra questioned the present Congress government's purpose of transferring cases to the CID by forming SITs, as officers are not given a free hand to conduct an impartial probe. He also pointed out that the CID is short-staffed and most of the officers working there consider it a punishment transfer and keep trying to move to other postings. As per data, there were around 490 cases with the CID last year. In 2023, there were around 900 cases. The current strength of the CID is about 600.

Objective, professional probe

All high-profile cases are handed over to the CID because it is a premier investigating agency of the state. Director General of Police (DGP) MA Saleem told TNIE that the major reason why all high-profile, sensitive and complex cases are given to CID is because the agency's mandate is objective and professional investigation.

"We go by the rule book and follow the code of investigation as detailed in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (earlier the Indian Penal Code, IPC), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (earlier the Indian Evidence Act, IEA), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (earlier Criminal Procedure Code, CrPC). The CID also uses a lot of technology in its investigation and we have the best cybercrime investigation laboratory - Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR) on par with any agency in the world. CCITR is a novel initiative involving CID, Infosys Foundation and Data Security Council of India (DSCI). The courts are appreciative of the investigation in several cases. Court scrutiny can be seen in bail applications, quashing of cases etc," said Saleem.

CID deals only with investigation and is not burdened with other police functions like maintaining law and order, traffic and VIP bandobast duty etc. "The agency is removed from the pulls and pressures that law and order police have to face. It is meant to be objective, fair and professional," said another officer who didn't wish to be named.

Certain cases are mandated to the agency because they may involve big financial fraud, losses or complex cross state investigation. "No matter how insulated police claim to be, political pressures cannot completely be weaned away. CID, to a large extent, is meant to be away from such pressures that can colour investigation. The strength of its reputation rests on the investigation it conducts and evidence it gathers. The litmus test is the court trial," added the officer.

SIT should be given free hand

"I am not ready to say that officers tasked with an SIT probe do not investigate properly. All the officers in CID are specialised law enforcement officers. But the present Congress government is not giving SIT officers a free hand. They dictate terms to the officers. While forming the SIT itself, officers are personally chosen by the government. For the Valmiki Corporation probe, the SIT officers worked under tremendous pressure and spoiled the case itself. In the FIR, there was no name of the minister concerned. I was under the impression that at least the SIT will set it right, but even they did not provide justice. If the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had not entered, the case would have been swept under the carpet. During my tenure as home minister, I gave the PSI scam to the SIT and the officers did a wonderful investigation, and a senior IPS officer was also arrested in the scam. The present government forms the SIT only to bury the case and just for eyewash," said Jnanendra.

Why does govt prefer CID?

Every investigation is capable of being done by the investigation officer attached to the police station. Why does the government prefer CID? If it is investigated by officers of the same police station, they could be burdened by law and order duty, other cases and multiple other duties.. They might not be able to give time for complete investigation, as the load on them is always high. When an SIT is formed, the State considers it a matter which has to be investigated thoroughly and on a speedy basis, without any disturbance. Investigation is the only work for the SIT. In case of delay in investigation, the chargesheet is not filed within a prescribed time, and the person who is in jail gets automatic bail. The SIT is a team of officers with in-depth knowledge and thorough investigation skills, said an officer attached to CID.

Police officers are expected to be impartial. Investigation is the domain of the investigation officer. Even courts cannot interfere in what the investigating officer does. When it comes to impartiality, it is always an allegation. Forget about SIT, even the CBI is blamed for partial investigation. Do CBI or ED become impartial in every case? Every investigating officer is the servant of the state and at the end of the day, he has to report to his head. The head has to report to his head, which is the government. The possibility of influence cannot be ruled out. Unless and until there is material, the officers must not be blamed for being partial. We can make allegations of corruption against anybody, but we have to substantiate it. We cannot stigmatize anyone without basis. When the matter gets political colour, such allegations are common, senior advocate MS Shyamsundar told *TNIE*.

It's a 60% commission govt, says HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

UNION Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday targeted the Siddaramaiah government, accusing it of corruption and extracting commission, while alleging that ministers themselves are involved in this.

"The commission has reached 60% in the Congress government. Even Congress workers admit to this. Commission is also being taken in allocation of houses. Earlier, PDOs used to take bribes, now ministers in Vidhana Soudha are taking commission," he told reporters after visiting the Sri Chamundeshwari Temple.

Wondering if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lives by Gandhi's principle of Satyameva Jayate, Kumaraswamy said, "Let him answer to his own consciousness. Is there no limit to looting money? By facing harassment regularly, contractors who supported the Congress are saying that the previous BJP government was better. Siddaramaiah and the Congress government will have to pay the price for all this in the coming days," he said.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy offers puja at Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru on Sunday | EXPRESS

He also blamed the Congress government of playing with the lives of people by increasing the bus fares. "The state government is looking for an excuse to stop the guarantees at any cost. The government is taking money from the people with one hand and giving it back through schemes with the other hand. The state government is playing with the lives of the middle class," he said.

Stating that the hike will only burden the common people, he said, "Ministers' and MLAs' children do not travel by bus. All those who use buses are common people. When the transport minister was questioned about the bus fare hike, he said that people who can spend money to eat meat can pay for the bus fare. The Congress have problems about the poor eating meat. Do you know how hard it is for the poor and middle class to buy meat once a week? Children are suffering from malnutrition," he said.

If you have proof, show it, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Davanagere

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday advised opposition parties not to make baseless allegations, but substantiate them with proper proof.

Responding to Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's allegation of a "60% commission" racket in the state government, he said, "Just making baseless allegations is not the job of the opposition. Allegations should not be made without documents and proof. If he (Kumaraswamy) has any proof, let him show them. Ask him to prove that 60% commission is taking place and there is corruption."

SIDDU ROLLS UP HIS SLEEVES TO PRESENT ₹4L CR BUDGET

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah is set to present Karnataka's largest-ever budget, estimated at around Rs 4 lakh crore, likely on March 14, with the budget session expected to run for around four weeks.

As the date draws closer, Siddaramaiah has started preparations for a series of crucial progress review meetings starting Monday. These high-stake sessions will lay the foundation for the state's landmark budget, with key departments, including social welfare, health and family welfare, food and civil supplies, higher education, medical education and women and child development, taking centerstage during the next few days.

Sources in the Chief Minister's Office revealed that Siddaramaiah, who is set to present his 16th budget, the highest ever by any CM in Karnataka's history, is working to finalise the priorities for each department in the coming weeks.

These meetings are pivotal, as the CM faces the challenging task of balancing competing demands while addressing concerns over the strain of welfare guarantees and insufficient revenues to meet other critical priorities. Ministers and department heads will be making strong pushes for their share of the budget, making these discussions a defining moment in shaping the state's financial future.

These meetings and pre-budget meetings in the coming days will delve into the state's economic performance, assessing revenue generation and identifying fiscal gaps from the previous year. Ministers will present their departments' most pressing needs, which will directly influence how funds are allocated across essential sectors such as healthcare, education and infrastructure. Behind closed doors, Siddaramaiah and senior officials will scrutinise current policies, adjusting them to align with the government's broader development strategy while considering new initiatives for progress.

Revenue generation and taxation strategies will also take centerstage with bold proposals aimed at increasing the state's income. Experts will offer insights on improving tax collection and stimulating economic growth, addressing Karnataka's fiscal challenges head-on.

Amid these strategic discussions, the government will focus on its top priorities, including managing the guarantees, completing major infrastructure projects, managing the growing debt burden, and ensuring the effective allocation of funds for welfare programmes.

What's wrong with getting together for dinner, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Davanagere

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday clarified that no political issues were discussed at the recent dinner meeting he had with his cabinet colleagues. "The media is just cooking things up. Is it wrong when some people get together for dinner?" he asked reporters.

Siddaramaiah's dinner meeting with select Dalit cabinet ministers at the house of PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Thursday, and in the absence of Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who is abroad, has set political circles abuzz with speculation of leadership change.

"The media and some people simply give a political colour if politicians come together for dinner while it is not the case for others," he said.

To a question about changing the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, Siddaramaiah said, "It will be decided by the high command, not us. The KPCC president, chief minister -- everything is decided by the high command," he said.

Speaking on the 15% hike in bus fares, the CM said this was done for the first time in five years. Inflation has increased and so has the prices of diesel and salaries in the transport corporations. So, the hike in fares was inevitable, he said. "There was also a demand to increase the bus fares for a long time, so we took this decision. Bus fares were increased long ago, and as we were told that all our road transport corporations are in distress, and as there was a long standing demand, we have increased it."

Questioning whether there was no hike when BJP or Kumaraswamy was in power, the CM said, "Let them say they had not increased fares. Hasn't the central government increased railway fares?" The revised bus fares, hiked by 15 per cent across the board, came into effect at midnight on Saturday, amidst stiff criticism from opposition parties and various sections.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates the 537th Kanakadasa Jayanti in Davanagere on Sunday | EXPRESS

Nilambur MLA P V Anvar was arrested on Sunday night in connection with the vandalism at the North Divisional Forest Office in Nilambur during a protest earlier in the day. He faces charges of destroying public property, assault or using criminal force against public servant, among others

HOGGENEKAL SAFARI SOON, VISIT VEERAPPAN'S HIDEOUTS ENROUTE

It will cover 22km of forest that has a high destiny of elephants, sambar, deer, bears

K SHIVAKUMAR @ Mysuru

TWO decades after sandalwood smuggler Veerappan's death, the Forest department is keen to tap tourism potential of the forests, and will soon start a safari from Hoggenekal falls on the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border. The department, that has started a safari from Gopinathan, the native village of Veerappan, has registered high demand from tourists for 'brigand tourism'. The safari will cover 22km of forest, particularly Veerappan's hideouts in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, that has a high destiny of elephants, sambar, deer, bears and other wildlife.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

However, authorities at Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary wanted to start the safari from Hoggenekal, a favourite destination with tourists on both sides of the border, especially for boating in the river Cauvery and traditional fish dishes.

The department plans four trips -- two in the morning and two in the evening — with a carrying capacity of 25 in two vehicles. They have placed an order for new safari vehicles that will cover deep inside the forest. It has also opened tent cottages in Gopinatham for accommodation, and the increased flow of tourists has made villagers open home stays and rent out rooms in their homes.

Hoggenekal falls attracted 3,500 tourists in January 2024, and 9,381 tourists in March, with about 1,400 foreign tourists visiting prominent tourist spots in the district. The forest authorities want to tap local and foreign tourists, which will contribute to the local economy and generate direct and indirect employment.

The new safari in Hoggenekal will be the sixth, after Bandipur, K Gudi, PG Palya, Ajjipura and Gopinatham. Lakhs of tourists visiting MM Hills temple can also avail of facilities that will give a major boost to the local economy.

'Marvel': India's first rail lift bridge derailed 'sea monsters'

B ANBUSELVAN @ Rameswaram

AFTER more than two years of wait, train services are set to resume on Pamban - Rameswaram section, with a new vertical lift Bridge at Pamban replacing the iconic but old structure that had long connected Rameswaram Island to the Indian mainland. Spanning the Palk Strait, this new 2.08 km bridge is not only a critical transportation link but also considered an engineering feat of sorts.

Its unique feature lies in the 72.5-metre-long navigational span, which weighs a staggering 660 metric tonnes (MT). Using a theoretically simple technology - a counterweight system - to suspend 620 of the 660 MT above the sea, the bridge reduces its reliance on powerful electric motors which are now used to elevate only the remaining 40 MT.

The bridge has been cleared by the Commissioner of Railway Safety after addressing concerns. The New Pamban Bridge comprises 99 spans, each 18.3 metres long, with the pivotal navigational span being the longest and heaviest component. At 660 MT, it forms a significant portion of the bridge's total weight of 1,880 MT. The span itself is raised and lowered using an electric motor with a capacity of 760 RPM, allowing it to lift in just 5 minutes and 3 seconds, a remarkable feat when compared to the old bridge's manual bascule mechanism which took 30 to 45 minutes.

An official from the Southern railway explained that 310 MT of steel ingots serve as counterweights on either side of the bridge, with high-tension cables connecting them to the span. "The remaining 40 MT comprises railway tracks and other structural components. This system allows the span to be raised using an electric motor of 760 RPM capacity, lifting it within just 5 minutes and 3 seconds, compared to the 30-45 minutes required by the manually operated double-leaf bascule section of the old bridge." said an official.

"It's nearly impossible to lift the entire 660 MT weight using electrical power motors. The counterweight system has reduced the weight to be lifted to 40 MT," said an engineer.

The navigational span elevates to a height of 17 metres, ensuring smooth maritime traffic. "A backup motor has been installed to ensure uninterrupted operation. Currently, the span is raised 7-8 times a month, a number expected to increase with growing vessel traffic in the Palk Strait. The high-tension cables anchoring the span are designed to last 10 years, while the navigational span itself has a life expectancy of 35 years, with the bridge projected to last 100 years," added the official.

In terms of clearance, the new bridge offers 22 metres of airspace above sea level, three metres more than its predecessor, reducing the risk of collision between ships and the bridge. For over a century, the old bridge, which was constructed in 1914, served as the sole rail connection between Rameswaram and the mainland. However, following corrosion, train services were suspended in December 2022, and since then, trains have been terminating at Mandapam.

The foundation of the bridge consists of 333 piles and 101 pile caps, extending up to 37 metres below the seabed, designed to support two tracks.

"The welded boxes for the superstructure were manufactured in Ramanathapuram. Their quality was verified through phased array ultrasonic testing by the Welding Research Institute at BHEL (Tiruchy)," explained an official. The new bridge also reduces the labour intensity associated with its predecessor, which required 30 to 40 personnel to operate its manual double-leaf span.

Karnataka releases dos & don'ts to keep HMPV at bay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AMID concerns over rising human metapneumovirus (HMPV) infections in China and to ensure public safety, the Karnataka Health Department has issued guidelines for the public on the dos and don'ts. The department clarified that there is no cause for alarm as no cases of HMPV have been reported in Karnataka so far.

Health officials told The New Indian Express that an analysis of data on respiratory infections such as common cold, influenza-like illnesses, and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), revealed no significant increase in reported cases for December 2024 compared to the same period last year. The state is prepared to handle any crisis, Dr Ansar Ahmed, Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, said.

CHECKLIST

- Do not self-medicate
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid crowded places and limit contact, specifically if you are unwell
- Do not frequently touch eyes, nose, and mouth
- Do not reuse handkerchief and tissue paper, when you cough or sneeze

ALL SET...

Earthern pots for sale ahead of Pongal festivities in Chennai on Sunday. The festival will be celebrated on January 14 | P JAWAHAR

T'gana, Andhra should compete together with rest of world: Revanth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

TELANGANA Chief Minister **A Revanth Reddy** on Sunday said that sibling states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh should resolve issues, if any, amicably and compete together with rest of the world.

Addressing the 12th biennial conference of World Telugu Federation in Hyderabad, he said: "Some people say that there is a competition between AP and Telangana. But I want both the states to compete together with other countries. We need to formulate the plans accordingly. If there are any problems or issues, let us sit and discuss, and resolve them."

"When issues between two countries are being resolved through negotiations, why can't similar positive outcome be achieved between two states," he wondered.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said that the Telangana government was chalking out plans to achieve 60 per cent urbanisation in the state.

Under the "Telangana Rising -2050" theme, the state government is preparing development plans for the next 25 years, he added.

Recalling that the Outer Ring Road (ORR) sparked economic growth in the state, Revanth said that to take the growth forward, the government is constructing Regional Ring Road (RRR).

"The Fourth City (Future City) will be developed on 30,000 acres. We are making plans for Hyderabad to compete not with Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai but with global cities like New York and Tokyo," he said.

Laments diminishing influence of Telugus on national politics

Revanth Reddy expressed disappointment over the diminishing influence of Telugu people on national politics. "Though there are 18 crore Telugu people, we are not in a position to influence politics at the national level. Narasimha Rao, Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, NTR, Jaipal Reddy, Venk-aiah Naidu, Rajasekhar Reddy and Chandrababu Naidu played key roles in national politics, but now Telugus' role is diminished," said.

WRITER NA D'SOUZA PASSES AWAY AT 87

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

DISTINGUISHED Kannada novelist and writer, **Na D'Souza**, 87, passed away at a hospital in Mangaluru on Sunday. He was admitted to Father Muller Hospital on January 3 and died due to kidney failure at 7.49 pm on Sunday.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Na D'Souza's mortal remains will be kept for public viewing at his residence in Sagar, Shivamogga district, on Monday afternoon, his son Naveen D'Souza announced on Facebook.

Born on June 6, 1937, in Sagar, Na D'Souza was a prolific author with a literary career spanning several decades.

His extensive works includes over 40 novels, numerous short stories, plays, and children's literature, totalling more than 94 published books.

Throughout his career, Na D'Souza received numerous accolades, including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award in 1993 and the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 1998. He was also honoured with an honorary Doctorate (D.Lit) by Kuvempu University.

In 2014, he was selected as the president of the 80th Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Madikeri, reflecting his esteemed position in the Kannada literary community.

He won the prestigious Pampa award last year. His stories reflect a deep sensitivity to the challenges that have long troubled the Malnad region.

Na D'Souza offered his invaluable advice as a member of various organisations, including the Karnataka Sahitya Academy, Konkani Sahitya Academy, Karnataka Book Authority, senet of Kuvempu University and Hampi Kannada University, Kuvempu Rangamandira, and Kannada Development Authority.

He was admitted to the hospital at 9.30 pm on January 3 for issues related to kidney, heart, blood pressure, and prostrate. He died at 7.49 pm on Sunday due to kidney failure.

EXPRESS READ

Liberate temples from govt control, says VHP

VIJAYAWADA : VHP held 'Hyndava Sankharavam' at Kesarapalli near Vijayawada on Sunday. VHP international president Alok Kumar raised concerns over the temple management in Andhra Pradesh. "Every temple in state needs to allocate 7% of its income to the government with 5% going to the Common Good Fund. Temples need to pay high tax and power tariff. The government distributes the income accrued from Hindu temples to other communities in the guise of secularism, looting Hindu resources," he alleged. **ENS**

'Subcontinent history can't be written ignoring Tamil'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

BULLS were common in Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) and also Tamil Nadu, as is evident from ancient Tamil literature, Chief Minister Stalin said. He added that markings found in IVC portray a tamer being tossed by a bull, and pointed out that in TN, bull taming had been in vogue. He also noted that no markings of horses were found in IVC. Vedic literature does not portray big cities and worship of a mother goddess, but both are present in IVC and also Keezhadi. Based on all this evidence, it has been established that the Indus Valley was where ancestors of the Sangam Tamils lived, Stalin said.

Excavations near Adichanallur confirm that the Thamirabarani riverside civilization, which was called 'Than Porunai', dates back 3,200 years, the CM said. He noted that scholars have started accepting the antiquity of Tamil society based on scientific evidence. "Let us say, the history of the Indian subcontinent cannot be written ignoring the Tamil language," he added.

One-third of prisoners' earnings to go to victim relief fund in Kerala

SHAN AS @ T'Puram

THE Kerala government has ordered remitting one-third of prisoners' earnings from jail chores to the Victim Relief Fund. The prisons department has been asked to comply with the directive, which will be effective this month.

The government took the decision based on a Supreme Court directive and also considering the plight of the victims of crimes, who have to wait for long to get compensation. However, the move will deal a huge blow to the prisoners who earn meagre amount as wages.

The wages of prisoners range from ₹63 to ₹168 per day in the central jails, while inmates of open jails can earn up to ₹230 a day. Of the total earnings, half is marked as 'family portion', which is meant to address the needs of their families. The rest of the earning goes towards rehabilitation purposes and canteen purchases.

Sources with the prisons department said the new decision will affect the prisoners adversely. "For a prisoner earning ₹63 per day, what will be left after one-third of that is deducted?" asked a prison official.

The sources said the department had recommended the government to revise the basic wage of prisoners by 50%. Had that been accepted, the new directive would not have affected the prisoners in a big way, a source said.

P.K. FOR REPRESENTATION

"Prisoners engage in labour, which keeps them motivated. The work they do is also part of corrective measures. Since they earn money, they remain motivated.

They will be reluctant to do the chores if their earnings are cut drastically, t. It will be difficult to force them to take up labour again," a source said.

Usually, convicted prisoners are deployed to do various menial jobs in jails. But remand prisoners as well as those sentenced for simple imprisonment are also allowed to take up such works if they desire so. In effect, the government decision will hurt the prospects of not just convicted prisoners alone.

IN THE DOCK

How a feast helped cops crack a murder mystery

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S
@ Siddapura (Uttara Kannada)

A feast organised by a person to celebrate Karthik Masa (auspicious month as per Hindu Calendar) has helped solve a murder mystery in Siddapura in Uttara Kannada district. It has come to light that the host of the feast, Abhijit Madiwal, is the accused in the murder of an elderly woman who worked as a pygmy collector and had decamped with over Rs 20,000 cash and jewellery.

On December 25, 2024, the Siddapura police found a woman murdered in her house which was locked from inside. The victim is 72-year-old Geetha Hundekar, who was living alone. Her husband died many years ago and her two daughters are married and live in distant places.

According to the police, the accused entered the house by removing the roof tiles of the bathroom, murdered her and decamped with the money which Geetha had collected the previous day. The murder came to light when the neighbours observed that the house was locked from inside and a bottle of milk placed at her doorstep remained untouched, following which they informed her relatives and the police.

The Siddapura police registered a case of murder and started the investigation. They were looking for clues and came to know about a grand feast organised by Abhijeet's family for the people of his locality. The host was auto driver Madiwal, who was earlier struggling to earn money since the last couple of weeks.

"We learnt that the victim had no enemies and she was a woman with self-respect. She worked as a pygmy collector at a private bank. She collected Rs 20,000 daily by evening from small businessmen and kept it with her until the next day before depositing it in the bank," informed the police.

Accordingly, the police said that the accused, a habitual offender and an auto driver, was arrested for several petty crimes like entering into a brawl, threatening, fighting and even thefts in the past. "After enquiring about the feast from his neighbours, he was summoned for interrogation. The needle of suspicion pointed towards him because he always organised a feast whenever he did a crime. It appears that he did this to overcome his guilt," said a police source. During interrogation, the accused said that he borrowed the money from his friend in Shivamogga. When the police summoned the friend, he denied that he had any business with him nor he has paid him any money. The accused finally admitted to murdering Geetha and taking away Rs 20,680 from her, of which he had spent Rs 19,280 on the non-vegetarian feast.

He also admitted to stealing some gold jewellery and keeping a portion of it at his home, while pledging some at a gold loan company. Uttara Kannada SP Narayan has lauded the efforts of the investigating team and announced a reward.

EDITORIAL

During an economic crisis, what matters is that the government keeps its foot on the accelerator

David Ignatius

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MP GOVT IN TOXIC MESS AFTER IMPLEMENTING HIGH COURT FIAT

THE Madhya Pradesh government tied itself in knots by implementing a judicial fiat on transferring toxic Union Carbide waste from Bhopal to Pithampur town in Dhar district, 240 km from the state capital, for its supposed safe disposal. The high court had threatened to slap contempt charges against the executive if its order was not implemented by January 6, the next date of hearing. On the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, noxious methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal, killing over 5,000 people and leaving thousands of others in the city with severe, long-lasting health issues. If Bhopal exhaled with relief after the shifting of the waste, the industrial town of Pithampur, which houses a state-of-the-art waste treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF), exploded in anger, as its residents were not part of the decision-making loop.

Bipartisan political support against incineration in Pithampur as well as in neighbouring Indore, and a fiery protest by the locals prodded the government to look for some wriggle room. It put the disposal of the waste on hold and tossed the toxic ball back to the judiciary. The government is expected to seek more time for disposal, saying it wants to take the locals into confidence—an oblique admission that it failed to hold a public hearing before transporting the toxic waste to the city. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's earlier spin that the waste was safe as it comprises 60 percent of the soil while the rest had 7-naphthol, reactor residue, and semi-processed pesticides found no takers. Residents of the Tarpura village, adjacent to the TSDF, claim that the incineration of 10 tonnes of Union Carbide waste at the unit on a trial basis in 2015 had led to soil and groundwater contamination in the periphery.

Top-down judicial orders for problem resolution on such matters without sensitising people at the base of the pyramid, tend to blow up in the face. More so as the very mention of the Bhopal gas tragedy makes people shudder, as the methyl isocyanate leak deformed foetuses of future generations as well. A recent PIL at the National Green Tribunal sought iron-clad guarantees from the government before the waste is allowed to be disposed of. Let there be no shortcuts where people's lives are at stake.

SET STRICTER CRITERIA FOR DEFINING POVERTY

THE great Indian poverty debate is back with the recent release of monthly household consumption data, showing a significant increase in rural and urban consumption in 2023-24. The data indicate an 8 percent and 9 percent increase in urban and rural consumption in FY24. The data also reveal a further narrowing of the urban-rural consumption gap to 70 percent in FY24, down from 71.2 percent in FY23 and 84 percent in FY12.

After analysing the data, SBI economists concluded poverty had fallen below 5 percent. They fixed the rural poverty line at ₹1,632 and urban poverty line at ₹1,944 by simply adjusting the previous Tendulkar poverty lines for inflation. Thus, ₹64-a-day is now considered the new poverty line, replacing the infamous ₹32-a-day one the Rangarajan Committee defined in 2011-12.

The SBI report has shifted the poverty line to the bottom fractile (0-5 percent) of households in terms of consumption from the 5-10 percent fractile. The argument presented is that the bottom fractile has seen higher growth in consumption. However, beyond the technical and statistical debates, we should ask whether these poverty lines help policymakers eradicate poverty in the long run or merely justify the level of deprivation prevalent in the country.

The government might flaunt the SBI report to take credit for significantly reducing poverty in the country, especially through schemes like free food and cash transfers to needy people.

However, these analyses are not without flaws. Critics have consistently questioned the unjustifiably low levels of income/consumption used to define poverty lines. According to the World Bank, the international extreme poverty line is $2.15 per person daily. It uses a higher poverty line of $6.85 for middle-income countries. As a lower middle-income country, India must have a poverty line between these two figures. Therefore, it is time to adopt higher standards and more comprehensive parameters to elevate people from poverty.

UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index (2024) estimates show 234 million Indians lived in poverty in 2022. That is much higher than 5 percent of India's population. The UNDP index employs stricter parameters to determine a household's poverty status. India should not shy away from the reality that it is home to one of the largest populations of poor people and adopt higher benchmarks to ensure genuine poverty alleviation.

QUICK TAKE

GO DIGITAL FOR MORE NRI VOTES

OVERSEAS voter turnout in the 2024 general election plunged horribly to 2.47 percent from 25.64 percent. Only 2,58 of 1,19,374 registered electors came to India to vote. Ninety percent of these voters hail from southern states, but except in Andhra Pradesh, the turnout was in single figures, if not nil. Reasons ranged from travel costs to lack of time to job compulsions. Overseas Indians cannot use postal ballots or proxy voting, currently available to select government employees. In Digital India, electronically transmitted postal ballots or online voting systems are readily available. The government must enable NRIs to exercise their franchise by extending distant voting facilities without delay.

China has invested heavily in Sri Lanka, and India has, too, and the competing interests need careful management. A single wrong move may prove costly for the new administration

LANKA PREZ TREADS A GEOPOLITICAL TIGHTROPE

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer. She is a founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

PRESIDENT Anura Kumara Dissanayake walked the diplomatic tightrope in December when he made his first international visit as the island nation's new president to New Delhi.

Dissanayake's party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) of old, is known for both anti-India sentiments and strong opposition to the India-brokered 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution that sought to devolve power to the provinces, which the JVP felt was a provision aiding separatism in the Tamil majority areas.

This discomfort apart, the discussions went smoothly, and the political pragmatism of choosing Delhi over Beijing is a message that the JVP/NPP has a softened and practical approach towards India.

India meanwhile is increasingly concerned about China's overtures to neighbouring countries and, as far as Sri Lanka goes, Beijing's economic and military influence. China's "research vessels" are disconcerting to India and there have been a few docking close to Colombo. In December, President Dissanayake assured Indian leaders that he would prevent anyone from using Sri Lankan territory for activities inimical to India's interests.

Relations with China became strained when the island's economy hit rock bottom and loans could not be serviced. It had taken time and effort to reach an agreement with Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender before chalking a contract with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sri Lanka owes Beijing a hefty $4.2 billion in debt, restructured in October 2023, marking a key milestone in the nation's path to economic recovery.

The new president must navigate complex geopolitics between Asia's two powers. He is also watched by many. It is not just India and China that keep their gaze fixed on the president but also the US with its strategic interests and historical relationship with Colombo. The US wants to continue its engagement with Sri Lanka, and it is a relationship the JVP/NPP will have to navigate with care, knowing that they would not be viewed with the same lens as the predecessors.

This year will require Dissanayake to practice the political tightrope walk more as he dabbles in measured politics and diplomacy while catering to public expectations, no mean task given the island's cash-strapped status and the inherited economic woes.

Meanwhile, on Monday, the cabinet will receive a proposal to appoint a committee to review Adani Group's wind energy projects in Sri Lanka. The projects focus on constructing wind power plants in Mannar and Pooneryn in the island's North, which the previous administration approved. The committee is to review them and recommend restructuring where necessary.

SOURAV ROY

However, in a highly precarious balancing act, Dissanayake will end up deferring matters like the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement to enhance economic and technological cooperation between the two countries or fully implement the 13th Amendment, giving minority Tamils a measure of political autonomy.

Sri Lanka is still trying to emerge from an unprecedented economic crisis that imposed punishing burdens on the people. While balancing the geostrategic interests, President Dissanayake will be required to deliver on the economic front, ensure growth, offer relief for the poorer sections, deliver on specific promises, including fighting corruption, addressing rights anomalies and creating a long-term plan for complete economic recovery. His plate is more than full.

Back to Beijing. Dissanayake has to be sharper when tackling Beijing, the nation's largest bilateral lender. China has invested heavily in Sri Lanka, and India has, too, and the competing interests need careful management. According to political scientists, the choice to avoid aligning Colombo to either power is a good start. Dissanayake will soon find out Beijing's expectations of Colombo's new administration.

It is known that the 99-year lease of the Hambantota Port and the port city initiative in Colombo has made Sri Lanka's economy bleed. The pain of high-interest commercial loans will only be felt when the country starts repaying debt. Analysts expect the government to come under pressure amid growing geopolitical competition as geostrategic rivalries intensify.

As for now, his supporters are keen to see the island turn a new leaf, giving expression to the systemic change promised during election time, by tacking economic travails and the legacy of misrule.

It is here that Dissanayake, for all good intentions and efforts, may find himself crippled. Due to the financial meltdown and the austerity measures imposed by the IMF, there is little room to increase public welfare measures. Some changes have already been made by increasing poor relief and slight tax reductions, but they are insufficient to appease an impatient populace waiting for relief. The government's unprecedented majority of 159 seats in a 225-seater parliament is a sweeping mandate, but one that will call for delivery.

The pledges include structural reforms, punishing the corrupt and opening criminal cases swept under the carpet by the previous regimes. The pre-negotiated IMF bailout package also constrains Dissanayake. Despite lofty pledges during his campaign to renegotiate the deal, the reality is there is little room for navigation.

The president himself admitted to this when addressing the new parliament. He said Sri Lanka's economy was extremely fragile and it was not possible to make a single wrong move or go into the merits and demerits of the agreement as there was no way to start the process all over again. "The economy is in such a state that it cannot take the slightest shock... There's no room to make mistakes," he said.

A pathway has been created to dredge the country out of the economic abyss. It is not of Dissanayake's making, but it will be his responsibility to deal with the recovery phase.

Irrespective of the financial status, the rumblings will increase, and it will become necessary for the administration to seriously address the people's grievances, bring down the cost of living and offer relief.

Sri Lanka will go to the polls soon to elect members of the local authorities, followed by the provincial councils. There will be no time to introduce electoral reforms before the elections. A single wrong move can be costly for the island's new administration.

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CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF SIKHISM'S CLASSICAL HERO

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I received a beautiful New Year message from a Sikh friend: "End 2024 with *shukrana* (thanksgiving), start 2025 with *ardas* (petition for well-being)." This naturally brought to mind that January 6 is the 358th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh. Date-wise, after Rana Pratap and Shivaji Maharaj, Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, is India's last great classical hero, and Hindus revere him as devotedly as Sikhs do.

Among his many brave deeds, he founded the Khalsa, the Sikh army created to fight injustice and oppression. I can never forget the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa in 1999. Delhi was a festive sight, with thousands of cars flying saffron pennants with '*Ik Onkar*' (God is One) in Gurmukhi script. To offer respect, I went to Delhi's seven historic Sikh shrines and was deeply moved by the sincerity of devotion there, the soothing sound of the *shabad kirtan*, the cleanliness, and the characteristic generosity with which the gurdwaras fed everyone *langar*, the free community meal.

Growing up in Delhi, I had the subconscious assurance that, should the need arise, I would never go hungry in my hometown. All I had to do was show up at one of the great gurdwaras, and I would be fed. This assurance gives a certain confidence to those who know it—I have never seen a Sikh beggar.

Of these historic Delhi gurdwaras, the one that hit me hardest in the gut was Gurdwara Shishganj in Chandni Chowk. It was built on the site of Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom. He was the ninth Sikh Guru, the father of Guru Gobind Singh, and was petitioned by a group of Kashmiri Hindus to save them from the religious persecution of the Mughals.

Guru Tegh Bahadur attempted to find a peaceful solution with Aurangzeb. But he was arrested and publicly beheaded in Delhi on November 11, 1675, by Aurangzeb's order, both for refusing to convert to Islam and to try and suppress the conflict with the Sikhs.

Guru Tegh Bahadur thus sacrificed his life to protect the religious freedom of the people. He is venerated as '*Chadar-e-Hind*', the protective cover of India. His verses, the *Vairagmayi Bani*, are profoundly stoic.

Another historic gurdwara is at Majnu ka Tila in North Delhi. I have read that it was originally built in 1783 by the Sikh military leader Baghel Singh Dhaliwal to commemorate the stay of no less than Guru Nanak Dev himself. Baghel Singh and his 40,000 troops entered the Red Fort in March 1783 and occupied the *diwan-e-am* or darbar hall. The Mughal 'emperor' Shah Alam II made a deal with Baghel Singh, allowing him to raise gurdwaras on Sikh historical sites in the city and receive six annas in a rupee of all the octroi duties in Delhi.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Guru Gobind Singh was made the tenth Sikh Guru at the age of nine, after his father Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom by Aurangzeb's command. He grew up into a warrior, scholar, and sublime poet. His *jayanti* is of great significance in Indian history

The general camped in Subzi Mandi (still thriving in Old Delhi) and identified seven sites connected to Sikh Gurus. He had shrines raised on them within eight months. Meanwhile, a saying grew popular in Delhi that people still use as an analogy for diminished power—'*Az Dilli ta Palam hukumat Shah Alam*', meaning 'Shah Alam's rule is from Delhi to Palam', a village then on the outskirts that later became the site of Delhi airport, a distance of about 23 km today.

As for Majnu ka Tila, it translates to 'hillock of Majnu'. It is the mound by the Yamuna where an Iranian-origin Sufi mystic, Abdullah, also called Majnu (meaning 'lost in God-love'), met Guru Nanak Dev on July 20, 1505. Scrawny from fasting, Majnu ferried people across the Yamuna for free in the name of God. Majnu was spiritually transformed by his meeting with Guru Nanak and became his ardent follower. Guru Nanak was so pleased with Majnu's spirit of public service and desire for enlightenment that he declared the place would be called 'Majnu ka Tila' forevermore. And it is, to this day.

Born into this spiritual tradition, Guru Gobind Singh was made the tenth Sikh Guru at the age of nine, after his father Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom by Aurangzeb's command. He grew up into a warrior, scholar, and sublime poet. He had to endure the tragic loss of his four sons.

Two were killed in battle and the two younger boys, under six and just eight, staunchly refused to convert to Islam when captured by the Mughals. These brave sons of a courageous father were then walled up alive by Wazir Khan, the Mughal governor, to the people's great anguish. The Guru blessed Sher Mohammed Khan, the Nawab of Malerkotla, who opposed this barbarity to little children.

Guru Gobind Singh was fluent in Sanskrit and Persian. He sent a stinging letter in Persian to Aurangzeb in 1705 called the *Zafar Nama* (Epistle of Victory), with these famous words, '*Chu kaar az hamha heeltedar gujast, Haal astburdan bashamsheerdast*', meaning 'When all attempts at peace have failed, it is fitting to pick up the sword'. This rebuke demoralised the ageing tyrant, who had no answer to this truth about himself.

Guru Gobind Singh's composition, the *Dasham Granth*, contains the *Chandi Charitr Ukati Bilas* in praise of the Devi. Classical dancers emote today to exquisite verses on Radha from the *Dasham Granth*. The Guru's words from the *Chandi Charitr*, '*Nishchay karapni jeet karoon*', meaning 'With determination, I will triumph', is the motto of the Sikh Regiment in the Indian Army.

Guru Gobind Singh's *jayanti is* truly of great moral inspiration and significance in Indian history, that such a one was born to this land.

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MAILBAG

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Overshadowed wisdom

Ref: *Devaluing death of an unsung Singh* (Jan 5). Highly intellectual as Dr Manmohan Singh was, his humility sadly overshadowed his wisdom. This resulted in the grand old party taking him for a ride. In today's politics, humility is hardly rewarded.
Prahlad Chebbi, Dharwad

Erasing legacy

The article poignantly highlights the political apathy surrounding Manmohan Singh's contributions as prime minister. It is disheartening to see leaders celebrated only in death while being neglected in life. The lack of a memorial for Singh's unparalleled service symbolises the erasure of his quiet yet monumental legacy. India's history demands a just acknowledgment of such stalwarts.
Surabhi Sahay, Noida

On-ground situation

Ref: *Indian economy: Betwixt questions and half answers* (Jan 5). The growing rural consumption could also be due to inflationary impact. Sustained efforts are needed for rural poverty alleviation and to improve living standards. The government is obsessively focused on numbers and loses focus on the ground situation. Tremendous job creation efforts, new growth opportunities, improving governance and rural development are crucial to accelerate economic growth.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Mainstream acceptance

Ref: *The growing need to regulate crypto* (Jan 5). It is clear that the cryptocurrency market is caught between a rock and a hard place. The very essence of cryptocurrency is its decentralised and borderless nature. But the market cannot continue to operate in a regulatory vacuum and expect to achieve mainstream acceptance.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Rohit's future?

Rohit Sharma's shadowy performance in the recent Test series was quite an unpleasant experience for cricket lovers of India. The dismal show with the bat in 5 innings totalling only a paltry 31 runs had raised the eyebrows about the hitman's form and future.
Jiji Panicker K, Chengannur

Woeful performance

Rohit Sharma is consistently failing with the bat. Both he and Virat Kohli were woefully out of sorts against Australia and that was the primary factor for India's abject surrender after a remarkable win in the first test under Bumrah. The unceremonious exit of Ashwin midway did not help either.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
BJP's membership drive is going on in full swing in Maharashtra under the guidance of PM Modi. All citizens of North Mumbai... are joining the BJP family.

Eknath Shinde @mieknathshinde
The head of UBT group had said the people will decide whose Shiv Sena they belong to. In the assembly polls, the people showed who the real Shiv Sena belongs to.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
The ₹72,000 crore mega infrastructure project in Great Nicobar Island is a recipe for ecological and humanitarian disaster.

Boost to India-Indonesia relation as Prez Subianto to be R-Day chief guest

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDONESIAN President **Prabowo Subianto** has formally accepted New Delhi's invitation to be the chief guest for the 2025 Republic Day parade, it is reliably learnt.

The choice of Subianto as the first guest of third term of Prime Minister Modi signals the importance India attaches to the bilateral relationship with Indonesia and its Act East policy. The visit is expected to see both sides stepping up their strategic cooperation and defence ties.

India-Indonesia relations received a significant boost during the PM's visit to Jakarta in 2018 as the two countries signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and embraced the 'Shared Vision on Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific,' which further strengthened their defence ties.

India's first Republic Day guest was from Indonesia, President Sukarno, a key ally of country's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the golden years of the non-aligned movement. India and Indonesia have shared over two thousand years of strong cultural and commercial connections, with Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions spreading from India to Indonesia. Indonesia's folk art and theater are deeply influenced by stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Indonesia has become one of India's largest trade partners in the ASEAN region, with total bilateral trade reaching US$ 26.69 billion in 2023-24. India is the second-largest importer of coal and crude palm oil from Indonesia and also imports minerals, rubber, pulp and paper, and hydrocarbons.

On the other hand, India exports refined petroleum products, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, agricultural produce, bovine meat, steel products, and plastics to Indonesia.

Indonesia is also an attractive destination for Indian investment, with around 30 Indian joint ventures and investments in the country. .

Indo-US tech innovation ties on Sullivan agenda

To firm up frameworks in AI, quantum computing, semiconductors

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and the US are working to ensure the continuity of their high-tech cooperation by solidifying commitments ahead of the Trump administration's transition in January during the visit of outgoing U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on January 5 and 6.

Sullivan will meet his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar besides highlighting Indo-US high-tech and innovation alliance through the U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) at a lecture at Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi.

Since 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden have relied on their national security advisors, Ajit Doval and Jake Sullivan, to drive and mediate inter-departmental policies to iron out differences in technology cooperation. This was aimed at expanding the strategic cooperation, focusing on civilian and dual-use technologies, as well as the co-development of next-generation innovations.

"These efforts aim to mitigate the impact of the United States' ongoing export control policies and made substantial progress since Prime Minister Modi and President Biden announced the India-U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) on the sidelines of the Quad Summit in Tokyo on May 22. We need to continue with these efforts," a source familiar with the subject said.

The objective is to ensure that the policy frameworks are firmed up to ensure continuity in forging closer ties between the governments, academia, and industry of the two countries in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, telecommunications, space, semiconductors, and biotechnology.

Policy continuity is necessary for India to ensure some of its ongoing plans, such as establishing at least six ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging) semi-conductor units by 2026, especially in the context of America first policy of President Donald Trump.

Achieving this target would secure India a significant position in the global semiconductor supply chain.

Stable policy key for high-tech cooperation

"A stable policy framework is essential to maintain high-tech cooperation between the two countries, particularly in light of discussions surrounding the "Make in America" and "America First" policies of the incoming presidency. Ensuring both nations remain committed to this stability is crucial," pointed out Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, foreign policy analyst and Head of India Practice, Eurasia Group.

INSIDER TRACK

Dosanjh's meet with Modi signals a shift from discord to dialogue

As 2025 begins, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears committed to a mission of "hirdyaparivaratan" (transformation of hearts), seeking to turn critics and Doubting Thomases into supporters. His recent actions highlight this resolve. On January 1, Modi welcomed Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh to his residence, where they discussed music, national issues, and shared hopes for a better future. Since he was an outspoken critic during the farmers' protest, Dosanjh's meeting with Modi signals a shift from discord to dialogue. Earlier, on Christmas Day, Modi attended at a church function and greeted 20 Bishops from almost all the Christian denominations at another function. On January 2, he sent a 'chadar' to Ajmer Sharif, continuing a tradition for 11 years. Modi offered condolences to a journalist critical of his policies on the loss of his mother. These gestures suggest an earnest effort at making a difference through interactions and reach outs.

Former top cop's book may bring out humour, entertain readers

Retired IPS officer Prakash Mishra, who had a long career in the law enforcement, is all set to release a book — Comedy in Khakee: The Humorous Memoirs of a Policeman — on January 11. In this light-hearted memoir, the former top cop shares funny stories and personal experiences from his 39 years in the police force. Known for his run-ins with the state government in Odisha and a brief attempt at politics after retirement, Mishra offers a humorous look at his time in the service. The book, which will be launched by his senior Prakash Singh, is expected to bring plenty of laughter. Many fellow IPS officers see Mishra's decision to write such a book as a "bold move", given his high-ranking roles, including Director General of Police in Odisha and Director General of CRPF. His memoir is sure to entertain readers with its unique blend of humour and policing insights.

BJP says Cong spreading lies on Chinese occupation

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Sunday came down on the Congress for accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of allowing Chinese occupation of Indian territory, pointing out that the party cannot get away with "such lies" as all of it occurred during Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure.

The BJP's response came a day after the Congress alleged in a post on X, "China kept occupying India's land. Narendra Modi kept giving clean chit."

Contradicting the Congress' claims, BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya said the Congress has the "dishonesty" to speak of Chinese annexation of Indian territory despite the fact that all of it occurred during Nehru's tenure as prime minister.

"Imagine blaming Prime Minister Modi for Nehru's betrayal. The Congress cannot get away with such lies, even if Rahul Gandhi thinks otherwise," he said in a post on X.

Dismissing the allegations as an attempt to distort history for electoral gain, Malviya declared that the BJP won't allow Congress to manipulate facts.

Malviya said the reality is that He'an county is the new name for Aksai Chin, which China occupied by 1962. The Hekang county refers to the adjacent territory, he said.

"The significance of He'an county lies in the G219 Highway, which China formally opened in 1957. Prime Minister Nehru acknowledged its construction in Parliament in 1959," Malviya said.

The key features of the He'an county include Haji Langar, occupied by China in 1959, and an Indian patrol was detained here in 1958, he said.

"Qizil Jilga, captured by China in 1962. Chung Tash, occupied by China in 1962. Dehra Compas, taken over by China in 1961. Shamal Lungpa, seized by China in October 1959, close to the site of a 1959 attack on an Indian patrol," Malviya said.

Service to people is real worship of Mother India: RSS

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said that worshiping "Mother India" is equal to serving people and protecting environment and biodiversity.

"Every person born in India has a natural culture of service. Worshiping Mother India means serving and protecting its people, land, forests, water and animals. Conservation and promotion of environment and biodiversity is the inspiration we get from worshiping Bharat Mata," Bhagwat said at a function at Omkareshwar in MP.

"Just as Garuda got the blessing of becoming the vehicle of God by serving Mother India, we should be able to become the carrier of religion with the blessings of Mother India," he said. Describing 'grihastha ashram' as the pivot of religion, the RSS chief said Indian family is one of the most unique creations of the universe.

Pleas seek vacating of stay on filing suits under Places of Worship Act

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

A fresh batch of petitions has been filed before the Supreme Court, seeking the vacation of its earlier order that stayed the filing of new suits against places of worship and the conducting of surveys in pending mandir-masjid cases.

The pleas have been filed by various people challenging the SC's December 12 order, which said that no orders would be passed by any court on places of worship until the case is heard again after four weeks. The petitions seek modification of this order. The matter is scheduled for a hearing on February 17.

The interim order was passed on December 12 by a special bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna, Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan while hearing petitions relating to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 Act, which prohibits the conversion of the religious character of places of worship from their status as of August 15, 1947.

It is to be noted that some petitions challenged the constitutionality of the Act, whereas some others sought its strict implementation.

Many parties such as CPI (M), IUML, NCP (Sharad Pawar) MLA Jitendra Awhad, RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha, MP Thol Thirumavalan, and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi have sought to intervene in the matter, supporting the Places of Worship Act.

The top court is seized of many pleas, including the one filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking a direction that Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, be set aside.

Another plea was filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy against the provisions of the 1991 law.

Swami's petition

Another plea filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy against the provisions of the 1991 law urged the Supreme Court to "read down" certain provisions to enable Hindus to stake claim over the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura.

Education ministry seeks to take 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' far and wide

The Ministry of Education has recently instructed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to ensure wide publicity for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interactive programme, Pariksha Pe Charcha, involving students, teachers, and parents. "This campaign requires a huge publicity from all ends," read the note addressing MoHUA secretary and director general of CPWD. The MoHUA was directed to display banners on their portals, in residential complexes, at prominent locations, and at community information centers managed by their offices. The MoHUA's secretary was specifically asked to issue instructions to this effect, prompting the CPWD to direct relevant officers to display the banners and submit photos as evidence.

Ramayana at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from Jan 8

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention, the largest annual gathering of the Indian diaspora, will be held in Bhubaneswar from January 8 to 10. The event will feature four themed exhibitions: the universal legacy of the Ramayana, the diaspora's contribution to technology and Viksit Bharat, Indian migrants from Mandvi, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman, and the rich cultural heritage of Odisha.

Prime Minister Naredra Modi will inaugurate the 18th edition of the convention on January 9 and the chief guest Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, will address the gathering virtually.

The convention serves as an important platform for engaging with the Indian diaspora and facilitating interactions among its members from across the globe many of who wield considerable influence in their countries of residence.

The theme for this year's PBD Convention is "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat," celebrating the vital role of the diaspora in the development of a prosperous and developed India.

A large number of members from the Indian diaspora, representing over 50 countries, have registered to attend this prestigious event, an External Affairs ministry statement said.

In a special initiative, Prime Minister Modi will remotely flag off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a dedicated tourist train for the Indian diaspora. The train will embark on a three-week journey from Nizamuddin Railway Station in Delhi, covering key religious and tourist destinations across India under the Pravasi Teertha Darshan Yojana by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Another highlight of the event is four significant exhibitions: Vishwaroop Ram – The Universal Legacy of Ramayana: This exhibition will present the timeless epic of the Ramayana through a blend of traditional and contemporary art forms. Diaspora's Contribution to Technology and Viksit Bharat: This exhibition will highlight the significant contributions of the Indian diaspora to global tech advances.

Spread and Evolution of the Indian Diaspora with a Focus on Mandvi to Muscat: This exhibition will showcase rare documents of Indian migrants from Mandvi, Gujarat, to Muscat, Oman. Heritage and Culture of Odisha: This exhibition will delve into the rich cultural heritage of Odisha, showcasing its unique art forms and illustrious legacy.

President Droupadi Murmu will preside over the valedictory session of the meet and present the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 to select members of the diaspora, recognising their contributions in various fields.

'Pravasi Express' for Indian diaspora tourists

In a special initiative, PM Modi will remotely flag off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a dedicated tourist train for the Indian diaspora. The train will embark on a three-week journey from Nizamuddi Railway Station in Delhi, covering key religious and tourist destinations across India under the Pravasi Teertha Darshan Yojana by the Ministry of External Affairs.

IAF combat capability faces resource shortage and delay in modernisation

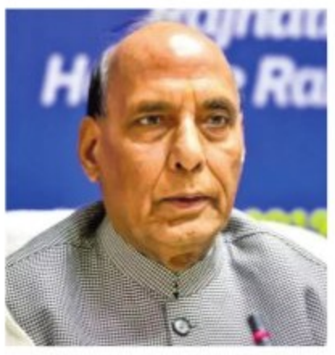
MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AMID the fast-changing geo-strategic scenario, the combat capability of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is turning into a tale of woes; not only is there a shortage of fighter pilots, the training of these pilots, even when inducted, is plagued with shortage of resources.

Delay in modernisation, specifically of the force multipliers, aggravates the situation further, especially when compared to Pakistan and Chinese Air Forces who have an edge in the same.

The audit carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and tabled in during the winter session has noted a continued decline in the number of combat pilots as, "In February 2015, IAF had assessed that there was a shortage of 486 pilots."

There was a plan to arrest the decline of pilots but the force could not keep up with it. "Between 2016 to 2021, against the planned initial intake of 222 trainees annually, the initial annual intake ranged between 158 and 204 trainees. Also, the annual intake after wastage ranged between 124 to 167." As a result, "the shortage of pilots rose from 486 to 596 which was expected to be filled up between January 2021 and January 2030."



But, what adds to the problem is the training being done on old aircraft in all three streams of the pilot training, which the CAG, in its Report on Training of Pilots in Indian Air Force, presented in Parliament in winter session.

The Performance Audit was conducted during the period January 2022 to May 2022 and covered the three stages of training; Stage I (Basic), Stage II (Intermediate) and Stage III (Applied) imparted by the Flying Training Establishments (FTEs) and the training of Navigators at the Navigation Training School (NTS) during the period 2016 to 2021.

The audit findings about Trainer Aircraft said had stated in March 2013 that action was on hand to procure 296 aircrafts by 2016 and IAF would have sufficient resources to train its pilots till 2036.

But, the report says, "In case of fighter stream, induction of 106 Basic Trainer Aircrafts and 73 Intermediate Jet Trainers, both indigenously being designed and developed by HAL, could not materialise due to delays in clearance from certifying agency and design issues, respectively."

In case of helicopter stream, the training was being imparted on the Chetak helicopters which had been inducted more than 50 years ago.

PASSPORT RACKET

A retired sub-inspector of Kolkata Police was arrested on the charge of clearing applications for passport without proper verification, an officer said. The number of people taken into custody for the racket rose to nine.

10 FLIGHTS CANCELLED AS FOG HITS OPS IN SRINAGAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	24	13	Mumbai	31	21
Bhopal	25	10	Panaji	32	21
Jaipur	21	10	Patna	24	14
Amritsar	16	08	Lucknow	22	13
Chennai	28	22	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	26	16	Imphal	23	10
Srinagar	03	-08	Chandigarh	18	09

Trade union politics back in J&K under civilian govt

Govt employees' union calls for protest on January 17 in the UT

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE employees' union of the Jammu and Kashmir government has announced plans to protest on January 17, demanding the fulfillment of their requests, marking the resurgence of trade union politics under civilian governance.

Despite a ban issued by the Lt Governor administration in November 2023 preventing employees from participating in protests and strikes, the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Coordination Committee (JKECC) has called for the demonstration.

JKECC president Shah Fayaz accused the government of neglecting serious concerns voiced by employees, including issues related to Dearness Allowance (DA), House Rent Allowance (HRA), discrepancies in the salaries of NHM employees and contractual college lecturers, as well as the non-release of the General Provident Fund (GP Fund), unpaid medical reimbursements, and the regularization of employees.

"We have made numerous representations to the government highlighting our issues, but there has been no response. Therefore, we are left with no choice but to protest. The timing of the agitation may be adjusted by a day, either earlier or later," he stated. Fayaz mentioned that protesters would gather at Sheri Kashmir Park and march towards Press Colony in Lal Chowk.

Following the abrogation, the government has adopted a firmer stance towards its workforce and implemented various restrictions. The employees have also been forbidden from criticizing government policies and activities.

Asked whether employees can stage protests after the November 2023 government order banning protests and strikes by employees, Fayaz said, "We have given the protest call. We are writing to all concerned quarters. Let us see".

The Lt Governor administration had invoked Rule 20(ii) of J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, which states that no government employee shall resort to or in any way abet any form of strike in connection with any matter pertaining to his service or the service of any other government employee.

"If the issues are not resolved, the employees will resort to staging a protest. Had the government addressed these matters, there would have been no need for a protest," he said.

Protests not allowed

The Lt Governor administration had invoked Rule 20(ii) of J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, which states that no government employee shall resort to or in any way abet any form of strike in connection with any matter pertaining to his service or the service of any other government employee.

Dallewal health worsens after border speech

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

FARMER leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's health continued to decline on Sunday after he experienced vomiting and dizziness following his 11-minute address at the Kisan Mahapanchayat in Khanauri the previous day. His reflexes too are said to have slowed down.

Dr Avtar Singh Dhillon expressed concern over Dallewal's condition, noting that his blood pressure was fluctuating during the address. After he was carried back to his tent he felt dizzy and vomited as his blood pressure dropped.

"He was advised not to go on stage due to harsh weather, but he insisted and spoke for about eleven minutes. After finishing his speech, he was offered water but he vomited instead. He had difficulty sleeping that night, and his reflexes have slowed since. Today, his blood pressure was recorded at 108/73, with a peripheral oxygen saturation level of 98. His respiratory rate was 18 per minute, and his heart rate was 73. He refused to take any IV drip," said another doctor.

A team of government doctors and officials visited Khanauri border to enquire about Dallewal's health in the evening.

Cancel licence if a tea garden closed for 3 months: Didi

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

THE West Bengal government has come up with a standard operating procedure (SOP) stating that if a tea garden is closed for more than three months, its lease will be cancelled.

The government has asked the district magistrates to prepare a list of the closed tea gardens and the period of closure, officials said. "The SOP was notified as it was found that many owners did not re-open their tea gardens even after the government addressed the workers' issues," an official said.

The Paschim Banga Cha Majoor Samity (PBCMS) has backed the government's move. "PBCMS workers met the state labour commissioner and called for implementation of the SOP. There are about 25 abandoned tea gardens in north Bengal, particularly in the Terai and Dooars region," said Anuradha Talwar, chief adviser to the tea garden union.

PBCMS president Kirsen Kharia said tea gardens appear picturesque from outside but there are plenty of issues relating to the plight of workers. He said many garden operators run the gardens in the tea plucking season and leave the workers to their own fate when the tea leaves are not plucked. "Persistent wage delays in multiple gardens, coupled with the non-payment of wages have pushed workers into financial despair," Kharia said.

The union representatives expressed their anger against a particular company that runs over a dozen gardens in north Bengal. "The union raised concerns regarding payment of provident fund and statutory benefits to majority of retired tea garden workers. PBCMS made a public list of PF contributions of 30 tea gardens of which only four gardens have deposited PF for workers till September 2024," Kharia said.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

Is Bhujbal and Sharad proximity unnerving Ajit?

Disgruntled NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, upset about being denied a ministry position by his party leader, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, is seemingly rekindling his bond with his former boss, Sharad Pawar. At a recent public event, both Bhujbal and Sharad Pawar were observed enjoying each other's company. Pawar was seen writing something down and handing it to Bhujbal, who reacted positively after reading it. At the same time, Bhujbal also shared the stage with CM Devendra Fadnavis, praising him during the event. This strategy appears to be putting pressure on Ajit Pawar while allowing Bhujbal to explore options.

Prioritising family time, taking charge can wait

After a recent cabinet expansion, 17 ministers chose to travel abroad with their families instead of assuming their roles in Mantralaya after the swearing-in and the winter session of the assembly in Nagpur. It is reported that, after the state elections and intense lobbying for ministerial positions, many ministers did not have the opportunity to spend time with their families. Additionally, some were dissatisfied with the ministries they were assigned, which led to a delay in taking charge of their respective departments. During a recent cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister urged his colleagues to assume their responsibilities immediately and work to fulfill the people's agenda.

Fadnavis aims to eliminate VIP culture

In a move aimed at reducing the VIP culture, Devendra Fadnavis, in his third term as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, has decided to end the spending on flowers and garlands. Fadnavis, who also serves as the Home Minister, has instructed the police not to provide him with a guard of honor during his official visits. Additionally, he has issued strict orders to officers to refrain from bringing garlands and bouquets when meeting him. Similarly, his cabinet colleague and BJP minister, Nitesh Rane, has encouraged people not to bring garlands when greeting him as well.

Uproar over Meghalaya govt move to consecrate varsity the Christian way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

A Meghalaya minister's statement that the state government will consecrate the Captain Williamson Sangma State University on January 13 by following Christian rituals has stoked a debate.

It is Meghalaya's first state university and Captain Williamson Sangma is the first chief minister of the state.

Justifying the move, education minister Rakkam A Sangma recently said the new Parliament in Delhi was also consecrated by following Hindu rituals.

"Ours is a Christian state. We want to consecrate the first state university with a massive prayer meet. If Parliament can be blessed with Hindu rituals, why not Christian rituals in a Christian state?" he said.

However, an NGO 'Thma U Rangli-Juki' slammed him for the "toxic fundamentalist statement" and asked him to retract it. "Meghalaya may be a state where a majority of its population practices various forms of Christianity but that in itself does not make it a Christian state. Also, the state and its institutions in India as per our Constitution are secular bodies that keep equidistance from various religious groups," the NGO said.

It stressed that a publicly-funded state university should be free from religious influence to be able to prosper and provide free, fair and quality education for all.

"Meghalaya is home to people of various faiths. Sangma's ignorant statement creates discriminatory conditions for Meghalaya's other religions," the NGO said.

Claiming that the BJP-led government at Centre is actively seeking to blur the distinction between Hindu faith and state institutions, the NGO said "political morality means that one should not encourage competing religious fundamentalism."

'No religious influence'

An NGO slammed the minister for the "toxic fundamentalist statement". It stressed that a publicly-funded state university should be free from religious influence to be able to provide free and fair education for all.

ENCOUNTER

Four Maoists, jawan killed in Chhattisgarh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

FOUR Maoists and a jawan were killed during an encounter in south Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Sunday.

"Based on specific inputs about the presence of Maoists in the Abujhmad region, a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel from four Maoist-affected districts of Bastar division along with the Special Task Force (STF) left on the search operation on Saturday. In the ongoing encounter, bodies of four Maoists have so far been recovered from the spot," a police officer in Bastar.

"The gun battle is still one and further details awaited," he added. The slain security force personnel has been identified as head constable Sannu Karam of Dantewada District Reserve Guard.

Of the four Maoists killed, two are women. The security forces have recovered an AK-47 and a self-loading rifle from the spot. The search operation has continued for nearly 24 hours with intermittent exchanges of fire, sources said.

Sunday's encounter in Abujhmad is the second between Maoists and the security forces so far this year in Chhattisgarh.

I-T dept raids premises of ex-BJP MLA, beedi barons in MP's Sagar

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AFTER two high-profile actions in Bhopal, the Income Tax department is inspecting business interests of one of the oldest and most powerful families associated with the ruling BJP in MP's Bundelkhand region.

Multiple teams conducted searches at around seven premises of three possibly inter-related businesses in Sagar district from Sunday morning.

It also covered the premises of ex-BJP MLA Harvash Singh Rathore, whose family is among one of the wealthiest and powerful BJP families in Bundelkhand region.

Two generations of the Rathore family, including ex-minister Late Harnam Singh Rathore and son Harvansh, have won the Banda seat of Sagar district, five times between 1985 and 2013 for the BJP.

According to state BJP sources, Harnam Singh Rathore's ex-MLA son Harvansh is among the frontrunners for the post of Sagar district BJP chief.

The IT department also raided premises of BJP's ex-municipal corporator Rajesh Kesharwani, whose family too has stakes in a prominent beedi business and premises of LIC agent and businessman Rakesh Chhabra in Sagar city.

IT department conducted searches at seven premises in MP's Sagar district | EXPRESS

Searches at BJP's wealthiest families' houses

The I-T department conducted searches at the premises of ex-BJP MLA Harvash Singh Rathore, whose family is among one of the wealthiest and powerful BJP families in Bundelkhand region. Two generations of the Rathore family, including ex-minister Late Harnam Singh Rathore and son Harvansh, have won the Banda seat of Sagar district, five times between 1985 and 2013 for the BJP.

According to sources, the three families/business entities are believed to be closely associated. The search may give evidence of tax evasion, bogus investments and suspected Benami transactions.

Last month, six-days long searches at 50-plus premises of three big builders and real estate groups in Bhopal led to a suspected nexus of prominent builders and powerful people which was investing unaccounted money in village lands on Bhopal's outskirts.

The searches which led to around ₹10 crore unaccounted cash and other movable properties also resulted in attachment of properties worth ₹250 crore. Further, the IT department is also probing another high-profile matter since December 2024 – the recovery of 52 kg unaccounted gold and ₹11 crore cash from an MUV owned by the key aide of 'crorepati' ex-transport department constable Saurabh Sharma.

Chorus for Bharat Ratna to ex-PM, installing portrait in Golden Temple

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

CONGRESS leader and leader of Opposition in Punjab assembly Partpal Singh Bajwa has suggested for a joint assembly resolution to seek Bharat Ratna for former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

He expressed it in a letter to CM Bhagwant Singh Mann and assembly speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan. Bajwa's letter highlighted former PM's transformative role as the architect of India's economic liberalisation in 1991. "He consistently prioritised inclusive growth, economic stability, and social justice impacting millions across India. Manmohan Singh is a proud son of Punjab and his journey is an inspiration to all," Bajwa said.

"Born in Punjab, his life exemplifies resilience, humility, and selfless service. He has not only brought pride to our state but also addressed critical issues in agriculture, rural development, and education, leaving a lasting impact on Punjab and the nation as a whole," he said.

"Honouring him with the Bharat Ratna would inspire future generations and acknowledge his exceptional contributions to India's growth and global stature," Bajwa said.

Punjab Congress president and MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring appealed to Akal Takht jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh to confer 'Panth Rattan' title on former PM in recognition of his contributions to the nation and the Sikh community.

Warring wrote a letter to Raghbir Singh which read, "Manmohan Singh not only made exceptional contributions to the economic growth of India but also upheld the values of simplicity and righteousness, embodying the true spirit of Sikhism."

Former National Commission for Minorities chairperson Tarlochan Singh wrote a letter to Gursharan Kaur, wife of Dr Singh, suggesting setting up a school of economics or school of administration in Delhi in honour of the former PM. "A permanent exhibition on the life and works of Dr Sahib can be part of it too," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Shiromani Akali Dal will hold an Akhand Path and Ardas at the Golden Temple in Amritsar in memory of Dr Singh. "SAD respects the extraordinary services which the late prime minister rendered to the nation and the pride he has brought to the Sikh quom (community) all over the world," wrote SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on X.

SAD also plans to request the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to install Singh's portrait in the Sikh Museum at the Golden Temple.

Citizenship to 60-yr-old under CAA, 1st in Bihar

RAMASHANAKR @ Patna

SUMITRA Saha Prasad, also known as Rani Saha (60), finally received Indian citizenship after a 40-year wait, becoming the first person in Bihar to do so under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) of 2019. Prasad has been living on a visa in Bihar's Ara's town ever since she got married to an Indian citizen.

Her youngest daughter, Aishwarya Prasad, applied for citizenship on her behalf in November 2024, and within two months, the process was completed. "It's a historic day for the whole family as our 40-year-old wait for Indian citizenship came to an end," Sumitra said.

The certificate was granted to her on Friday during a state-level empowered committee meeting chaired by M Ramachandran, Director of Census and Citizenship Registration, held at the Director of Citizen Registration office.

The committee reviewed an application submitted by Sumitra Rani Saha's daughter Aishwarya Prasad on her behalf under Section 5(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act, as amended by the CAA, 2019.

Following due scrutiny and approval through the CAA portal, the certificate was generated and electronically shared with the applicant via email and SMS notifications. "Our long wait has come to an end now. With Indian citizenship granted, now I don't need to visit Kolkata for renewal of my visa," a visibly elated Sumitra told this reporter on Sunday.

Recalling her journey from Bangladesh to India, Sumitra said, "At the age of five in 1970, I went to live with my aunt in Rajshahi, Bangladesh (then East Pakistan). A year later, the Indo-Pakistani War led to the creation of Bangladesh, but life for Hindus in the region remained precarious. I studied there until Class 10, but Hindus were treated with disdain. The atmosphere was hostile."

Sumitra said that she returned to India in 1985, never going back to Bangladesh. However, her stay in India was fraught with challenges as she lived on a visa. Sumitra's father, Madan Gopal Chaudhary, faced financial difficulties and could not support his family of six. With two daughters and two sons, he sent Sumitra to her aunt's home for relief. After returning to India at the age of 20, Sumitra reunited with her father in Katihar before marrying Parmeshwar Prasad of Bhojpur on March 10, 1985.

The couple settled in Ara town, where Parmeshwar ran a home appliance shop. Sumitra's struggle persisted even after her husband's death in 2010 due to cancer.

Living on a visa meant frequent renewals and constant uncertainty. "Every year, I worry about about the visa. Locals often taunted me and demanded that I go back to Bangladesh. In 2023, I was summoned to the police station and told to return to Bangladesh," she recalled.

In 2024, while renewing her visa in Kolkata, Sumitra's family learned about the CAA, which provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries. Her youngest daughter, Aishwarya, took the lead in navigating the application process. "Aishwarya worked tirelessly for months to get Indian citizenship," Sumitra said.

In January 2025, the family's efforts bore fruit as she was granted Indian citizenship, ending decades of uncertainty. For the first time, Sumitra will be eligible for government services and documents like an Aadhaar card, ration card, and PAN card.

Pathway to citizenship

In 2024, while renewing her visa in Kolkata, Sumitra's family learned about the CAA, which provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries. Her youngest daughter, Aishwarya, took the lead in navigating the application process.

$1.3 mn
was paid by a top bidder for a tuna at Tokyo fish market

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	7	-2	SNY	Los Angeles	23	7	SNY
Colombo	31	24	SNY	Melbourne	24	13	SNY
Dhaka	27	16	SNY	Moscow	-3	-6	LC
Dubai	23	17	SNY	New York	-1	-7	LC
Houston	8	0	LC	Singapore	31	25	LR
Istanbul	11	7	SNY	Toronto	-8	-8	LC
London	12	2	LR	Washington	11	2	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Polar vortex brings winter storm to central US

Eastern parts of the country likely to experience bone chilling cold from today, according to weather forecasters

WASHINGTON

A major, disruptive winter storm was sweeping across the central US on Sunday, forecasters said, bringing with it a dreaded combination of snow, ice and plunging temperatures. The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings from Kansas and Missouri where blizzard conditions are expected to New Jersey.

In the two states where blizzard warnings were in effect, travel "could be very difficult to impossible,' with snow whipped around by high winds reducing visibility, the NWS said. Gusty winds could bring down tree branches.

"Do not travel unless necessary!" the NWS said.

The polar vortex of ultra-cold air usually stays penned up around the North Pole, spinning like a top. But sometimes it escapes or stretches down to the US, Europe or Asia and that's when large numbers of people experience intense doses of cold.

Studies show a fast-warming Arctic gets some of the blame for the increase in polar vortex stretching or wandering.

By Saturday evening, widespread heavy snow was likely between central Kansas and Indiana, especially along and north of Interstate 70. Part of the interstate was closed in central Kansas by the afternoon. Total snow and sleet accumulations for parts of Kansas and northern Missouri were predicted to be as high as 14 inches (35.6 centimeters).

The storm was forecast to move then into the Ohio Valley, with severe travel disruptions expected. It will reach the Mid-Atlantic states on Sunday into Monday, with a hard freeze even expected as far south as Florida.

Severe thunderstorms, with the possibility of tornadoes and hail, were also possible ahead of the storm system's cold front as it crosses the Lower Mississippi Valley, the National Weather Service warned. Parts of upstate New York saw 3 feet or more of snow from a lake effect event expected to last until late Sunday.

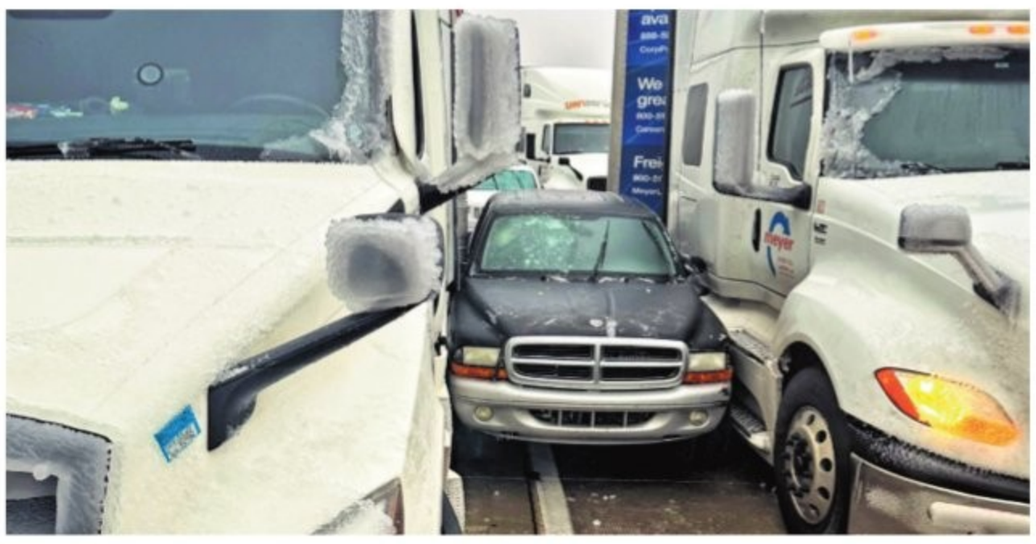
A fire truck, several tractor-trailers and passenger vehicles overturned west of Salina, Kansas. Rigs also jackknifed and went into ditches.

Freezing rain in Wichita, Kansas, sent authorities to multiple crashes in the morning, and police urged drivers to stay home if possible and watch out for emergency vehicles.

"Please stay off the roads. Crews are seeing too many vehicles out and sliding off,' Missouri's transportation department said on X.

Starting Monday the eastern two-thirds of the country will experience dangerous, bone-chilling cold and wind chills, forecasters said.

Temperatures could be 7 to 14 degrees Celsius below normal as the polar vortex stretches down from the high Arctic. *AP*



A car is wedged between two trucks during icy weather on Saturday in Salina, Kansas | AP

Protesters in Seoul demanding for the arrest of its impeached president | AP

South Koreans protest in snow as Yoon arrest deadline nears

SEOUL

THOUSANDS of South Koreans braved a snowstorm Sunday to rally in support or opposition of President Yoon Suk Yeol, suspended over a failed martial law bid and resisting arrest a day before the warrant expires.

Thousands descended on his residence again Sunday despite bitter snow conditions blanketing the capital – with one camp demanding Yoon's arrest while the other called for his impeachment to be declared invalid.

"Snow is nothing for me. They can bring all the snow and we'll still be here," said anti-Yoon protester Lee Jin-ah, 28, who had previously worked at a coffee shop.

"I quit my job to come to protect our country and democracy," she said, adding that she had camped outside the residence overnight.

Park Young-chul, in his 70s, said the snowstorm wouldn't deter him from showing up to back Yoon.

"I went through war and minus 20 degrees in the snow to fight the commies. This snow is nothing. Our war is happening again," he said. *AFP*

Heavy snow causes disruption in UK, Germany

LONDON

HEAVY snow and freezing rain brought widespread disruption across Europe on Sunday, particularly in the UK and Germany, with several major airports forced to suspend flights

With the weather set to stay inclement on Sunday in the UK, there are concerns that many rural communities, particularly in the north of England, could be cut off, with up to 40 centimeters (15 inches) of snow on ground above 300 meters (985 feet).

The National Grid, which oversees the country's electricity network, said it had been working to restore power after outages across the country. The company's live map shows power cuts in Birmingham in central England, Bristol in the west and Cardiff in Wales.

Many sporting events have already been postponed.

Britain's main weather forecaster, the Met Office, says sleet and snow will continue to push north on Sunday and will be heaviest in northern England and into southern Scotland.

Snow and ice were also causing havoc in Germany, where a bout of winter weather is spreading from the southwest. Authorities have issued black ice warnings for drivers and pedestrians, advising people to stay home where possible.

Frankfurt airport canceled 120 of its 1,090 planned takeoffs and landings on Sunday. At Munich airport, only one runway was open while the other one was being cleared. *AP*

Snow blankets Lee Park in Liverpool, England, on Sunday | AP

Former French prez Sarkozy to face trial over ties to Gaddafi

PARIS

FORMER French president Nicolas Sarkozy, already convicted twice in separate cases since leaving office, on Monday goes on trial charged with accepting illegal campaign financing in an alleged pact with the late Libyan dictator Muamar Gaddafi.

Sarkozy will be in the dock at the Paris court barely half a month after France's top appeals court on December 18 rejected his appeal against a one year prison sentence for influence peddling, which he is to serve by wearing an electronic bracelet rather than in jail.

The latest trial is the result of a decade of investigations into accusations that Sarkozy accepted illegal campaign financing – reportedly amounting to some 50 million euros – from Gaddafi to help his victorious 2007 election campaign. In exchange, it is alleged, Sarkozy and senior figures pledged to help Gaddafi rehabilitate his international image after Tripoli was blamed for bombing attacks on Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 over Lockerbie in Scotland and UTA Flight 772 in 1989 that killed hundreds of passengers.

Sarkozy has denounced the accusations as part of a conspiracy against him. *AFP*

Talks for Gaza ceasefire, Israeli hostage release deal begin in Qatar

GAZA STRIP

ISRAEL confirmed on Saturday that negotiations for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal had resumed in Qatar, as rescuers said more than 30 people had been killed in fresh bombardment of the territory.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz confirmed that indirect negotiations with Hamas had resumed in Qatar for the release of hostages seized in the October 2023 attacks.

The minister told relatives of one of the hostages, woman soldier Liri Albag, that "efforts are under way to free the hostages, notably the Israeli delegation which left yesterday (Friday) for negotiations in Qatar", his office said.

Katz said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had given "detailed instructions for the continued negotiations".

He was speaking after Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, released a video of Albag in captivity in Gaza.

In the undated, three-and-half-minute recording, the 19-year-old conscript called in Hebrew for the Israeli government to secure her release.

In response, her family issued an appeal to Netanyahu, saying: "It's time to take decisions as if it were your own children there." A total of 96 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz accused Lebanese group Hezbollah on Sunday of not meeting the terms of a ceasefire, warning that if the militants continued to breach the deal, Israel would "be forced to act".

Katz issued his warning after visiting the military's northern command.

Katz said Hezbollah had still not withdrawn "beyond the Litani river" in southern Lebanon, as stipulated in the ceasefire deal. Other provisions had not been implemented, he said. "We will not allow the creation of a renewed threat to the northern communities and the citizens of the state of Israel," Katz said in a statement issued by his office. *AFP*

We will not allow the creation of a renewed threat to the northern communities and the citizens of the state of Israel
Israel Katz, Defence Minister

Ukraine launches assault in Kursk surprising Russia

MOSCOW

RUSSIA said on Sunday that Ukraine had launched a "counterattack" in the western border region of Kursk, where Kyiv's forces began a shock ground offensive last August.

It was not immediately clear how much Ukraine had advanced in the region, but pro-Kremlin military bloggers reported earlier that a powerful new offensive was under way.

The assault comes at a critical juncture in the nearly three-year conflict, with both sides seeking to boost their negotiating hand ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's return to the White House on January 20.

"At about 9 am Moscow time, in order to halt the advance of Russian troops in the Kursk direction, the enemy launched a counterattack," the Russian defence ministry said.

Ukraine used two tanks, a dozen armoured vehicles and a demolition unit in the assault, which was headed towards the village of Berdin, it added.

"The operation to destroy the Ukrainian army formations continues," it said.

Pro-Kremlin military bloggers admitted the Russian army had come under pressure but said Moscow was fighting back. "The main events of the next attempted offensive by the Ukrainian army are clearly still ahead of us," influential pro-Russian Telegram channel Rybar said.

Images purportedly showing a column of Ukrainian armoured vehicles driving through the snow were shared by pro-Russia military blogger Dva Mayora on Telegram.

Ukrainian officials gave little detail on the new offensive, with a prominent lawmaker urging silence.

"I can't understand why it is necessary to officially report on the Kursk region. Maybe better to do it afterwards when the operation is over?" Ukrainian MP Oleksiy Goncharenko said. Other officials expressed their glee at the fightback, which comes almost three years since Moscow launched its full-scale military assault on Ukraine. "Russia is getting what it deserves," Ukrainian presidential chief of staff Andriy Yermak said.

The head of Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation, Andriy Kovalenko, said on Telegram that defence forces were "working" in the area, without elaborating. "In the Kursk region, the Russians are very worried because they were attacked from several directions, and it was a surprise for them," he said. *AFP*

In this videograb, Russian servicemen attend a combat training | AP

ASIA MATTERS

TWO BOATS WITH 300 EXPELLED

Malaysia said it expelled two boats ferrying about 300 undocumented migrants from Myanmar from the country's waters.The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said on Saturday the boats were located two nautical miles of Langkawi on Friday. "MMEA provided assistance, including food and clean drinking water, before expelling the boats out to the national maritime border to continue their journey," DG Mohd Rosli Abdullah said. "We are working closely with Thai authorities" to obtain information on the movements of boats, he added. *AFP*

MOUNT MERAPI EMITS 17 LAVA FLOWS

Mount Merapi, located on the border of Yogyakarta and Central Java, emitted 17 lava flows with a maximum reach of 1,800 meters as of Saturday. The volcano also recorded 204 seismic events during this period, *Jakarta Globe* reported. Residents were advised to avoid activities within the hazard zones, remain vigilant against lava flows.

WB seeks to shield Pak projects from political turmoil

ISLAMABAD

THE World Bank is set to approve a $20 billion indicative lending package for Pakistan to protect its funded projects from political transitions and focus on six targeted areas, according to a media report.

The programme, titled "Pakistan Country Partnership Framework 2025-35", aims to improve social indicators in the most neglected but important areas, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported, citing official documents.

It will focus on reducing child stunting, combating learning poverty, enhancing climate resilience, decarbonising the environment, expanding fiscal space, and boosting private investment to improve productivity.

These areas have broad support across the political spectrum and are expected to remain unaffected by government changes during the 2025-2035 period.

This 'Country Partnership Framework' is scheduled to be approved by the World Bank board on January 14.

According to the World Bank's assessment, the planning framework "will help shield the programme from the country's volatile polity and frequent swings in priorities and requests that follow government changes."

The requests arising from government changes have caused 'fragmentation of the World Bank portfolio and diluted impacts,' it said. The implementation of the 10-year framework will be supported by two-year rolling business plans, the report said. *PTI*

Loss of Document

General Public are hereby informed that I, **SOMA DUTTA**, D/o Sunil Kumar Das, Permanent resident of No.402 A, Gharana Enclave, Rajgarh Road, Guwahati, Ulubari, Kamrup Metro, Assam-781007. Presently resident of Urban Ecospace, A-335, Adigara Kallahalli, Near Exide Factory, Billapura, Sarjapura, Bangalore-562125. Confirm that I am resident of the address. I hereby declare that I have Lost My original Educational Certificate Pertaining to MSc (Ecology)Convocation with Roll 974 No.1714, issued by Assam University Silchar in the year 1999 in the name of Soma Das during the process of House shifting on 1st January 2025, Further Police complaint has been lodge online vide NO. 1412576/2025 to this effect. Person finding the said original documents may kindly return the same to the under signed

SOMA DUTTA, Mobile No.9401238073.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2)
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Case No : O.A. 1260/2022
Summons under sub-section(4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub - Rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993
Karnataka Gramin Bank, Channapatna Branch- 12197, Channapatna Taluk - 571501, Ramanagar District.
V/s
Sri Siddegowda Alias Sothegowda, Since deceased by his legal heirs & **& Others**
To: 1b. Sri G. S. Shivaramu, S/o. Late Siddegowda alias Sothegowda, R/o. Guvapura Village, Singarajipura Hobli, Channapatna, Ramanagara District - 562 138
2. Sri G. S. Shivaramu, S/o. Late Siddegowda alias Sothegowda, R/o. Guvapura Village, Singarajipura Hobli, Channapatna, Ramanagara District - 562 138.
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application/interlocutory under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of **Rs.48,41,615.43** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Forty One Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen and Paise Forty Three Only) due on 31.07.2022 together with current and future interest and other reliefs.
Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the sevice of the summons or on **16.04.2025 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice of interim relief sought. Take notice that in case default the application/ interloctory application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this date: **20.11.2024.**
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I AT BANGALORE
Telephone House, BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001. Karnataka
OA No. 1172/2022
BETWEEN : M/s. Canara Bank, Erstwhile SYNDICATE BANK, RAJAJINAGAR I BLOCK BRANCH, First Floor, Dr, Rajkumar Road, BANGALORE - 560 010. ... **APPLICANT**
AND: M/s. Kanva Tours and Travels & 2 others. ... **DEFENDANTS**
SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE RULES 1993
To. **1. M/s. Kanva Tours and Travels (P) Ltd,** No, 861, Kanva Sri Sai Complex, Modi Hospital Road, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 086 represented by its Directors 2 and 3.
2. Sri.N. Nanjundaiah, S/o Sri. Narayanappa, No. 408. A Block, Brigade Gateway Apartments, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 055.
3. Sri. N. Devendra, Director, M/s. Kanva Tours and Travels (P) Ltd, No. 861, Kanva Sri Sai Complex, Modi Hospital Road, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 086. ... **DEFENDANTS**
WHEREAS, O.A.No. 1172/2022 was listed before the Registrar, on 23/08/2024.
WHEREAS, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 76,65,827.20p (Rupees Seventy Six Lakhs Sixty five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven and Paise Twenty only) against all of you.
In accordance with sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you the defendants are directed as under:
(I) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
(ii) To disclose particulars of the properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the Applicant under serial number 3A of the Original Application.
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original Application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.
iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the Registrar on **12.02.2025** at **10:30 A.M** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on this 09-10-2024.
By Order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bangalore.

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (II FL-H FL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) mad with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower dears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs. charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Lavanya Shree Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Enterprises Mr.Lokesh N Lokesh **Prospect No 973345, IL10335345**	All that piece and parcel of : Site No.56/2, Katha No. 92, Kaneshumari No. 56/2, 48, 49 Situated At Bukkasagara Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tq, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560083. Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_area, Carpet_area, Built_up_area Property Area: 5670.00, 5670.00, 1467.00 Bounded By: North: Property of Eramunyappas South: Road & Property of Ramakrishna Chari East: Property of Lakaiah West: Property of Ramaiah	**973345 is ₹ 1535224.00/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred & Twenty Four Only) & **IL10335345 ₹ 1058312.00/-** (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred & Twelve Only)	18-Oct-2024	02-Jan-2025

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office :** Soma Merit, No.9, Ground Floor, Venkataswamy Naidu Street, Taskar Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560001 **or Corporate Office :** IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place : BANGALORE | Date : 06.01.2024 **Sd/-, Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Limited**

Banking stocks may stage a comeback in 2025

According to analysts, apart from fintech sector, e-commerce & IT services have huge growth potential this year

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

WITH the start of the new year and significant global & domestic developments on the horizon, investors are actively exploring opportunities to allocate their funds. Although the recent market sluggishness suggests that returns this year may not replicate the bull run witnessed in local equities between mid-2020 and September 2024, certain sectors appear to hold promise.

Many market analysts said that banking stocks may stage a comeback in 2025 owing to healthy valuations and favourable cues. In the last one year, the Nifty Bank index has given a return of about 6%, significantly lower than the 9% gain made by the benchmark Nifty50 index. Analysts also bet on sectors such as consumption, manufacturing and infrastructure. "On the Sectoral front, we remain constructive on Banking & Financial Services given the reasonable valuations and higher return ratios - ROE (Return on Equity) and ROA (Return on Assets). We are also hopeful of a revival in consumption and positive on manufacturing given the government's thrust and China+1 strategy," said analysts at Mirae Asset Mutual Fund.

The fund house remains constructive on equities from a medium-term perspective driven by strong profitability and free cash flows.

It stated that key things to watch out for in 2025 are: US policy on trade/tariff, fiscal expenditure and deregulation; Rate trajectory by the central banks; Oil price trend; Geopolitical issues; Recovery of consumption; and Private capex growth including Real estate.

In CY 2024, pharma, realty, IT and auto stocks dominated the buying trend. In general, the year was good for most of the sectors apart from Bank and FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) with FMCG Index dipping almost 15% in the last three months primarily due to poor earnings and weak commentary.

Anand K Rathi, Co-Founder of MIRA Money, believes that India's infrastructure is poised for rapid growth as the government's massive investment of over ₹100 lakh crore in roads, ports, railways, and more will create significant opportunities.

Companies involved in infrastructure development, particularly those with robust project pipelines, are expected to see strong growth over the medium term.

On the banking sector, Rathi said that Indian banks are in a solid position with low non-performing asset (NPA) levels and strong loan books. With an anticipated rise in private capital expenditure, banks, especially those at attractive valuations, offer a secure investment option.

Besides banking, consumption and infrastructure, analysts also remain bullish on the pharma and healthcare sector.

On stock selection, Axis Securities shared their top nine stock picks. The brokerage's top picks are Shriram Finance Ltd, Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Prestige Estates Projects Ltd, City Union Bank Ltd, Ambuja Cements Ltd, DOMS Industries Ltd, Ethos Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd and Cipla Ltd.

Ross Maxwell, Global Strategy Operations Lead, VT Markets said that as India looks to meet its ambitious sustainability goals, the renewable energy sector stands out. A push towards clean energy solutions will attract investment and fuel growth in industries such as green tech.

He stated that fintech, e-commerce, and IT services are other sectors that can still see large growth, supported by India's growing digital ecosystem, the rise of 5G networks, and government programs.

IN CONVERSATION

NACHIKET DESHPANDE
Whole-Time Director and COO at LTIMindtree

Growth ambitions cannot depend on acquisitions: COO

LTIMINDTREE, the sixth largest IT services company, recently launched its Cyber Defense Resiliency Centre (CDRC) in Bengaluru. With this centre, the company will create cybersecurity solutions that help the clients build resilient enterprises, and will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automate and improve security operations. In an interaction with TNIE's **Uma Kannan**, **Nachiket Deshpande**, Whole-Time Director and COO, at LTIMindtree, said the company will continue its focus on security, AI and that it targets $10 billion revenue by FY32. Edited excerpts:

LTIMindtree has set a $10 billion revenue target by FY32 from its present $4.3 billion. Will you be looking at inorganic growth as well?
Acquisition cannot be part of the strategy as growth ambitions cannot depend on it, because it may or may not happen. And there are so many things that have to fall in place. You have to find the right target and valuation. It is not enough for us to say we want to do acquisition. So the way we are looking at it is, we aspire to have a double digit growth. With 10-11% CAGR, by FY32 we will be able to achieve $10 billion in revenue, and that's what we are planning for. Now, if we end up doing sizable acquisition somewhere in the middle, it might accelerate. We will continue to do some small acquisitions, which are capability gaps or new markets or new customers, but they will not have a meaningful impact to the revenue, but they will be important and needed for that 10% CAGR.

Tell us about your deal pipelines and are you seeing any macroeconomic headwinds?
Our deal pipelines are pretty robust, including large deals. Many deals are scheduled to close and we are looking forward to it. Macroenvironment is better now compared to the beginning of 2024. The US elections are over, but a lot of people are speculating about things (in terms of tariff and how the US will act on it) that could happen on January 20. So such things may have a material impact on the business, but otherwise, inflation, interest rate, consumption and employment, all those macroeconomic indicators are better. For us, the US is a dominant market. This calendar year 2025 looks better than 2024.

We will continue to do some small acquisitions, which are capability gaps or new markets or new customers, but they will not have a meaningful impact to the revenue, but they will be important and needed for that 10% CAGR.

Many IT companies are now focusing on the Indian market as well. Are you seeing any opportunities here in India?
We continue to work in the India market, but we are very selective about the work we do. We are also part of the L & T Group and there are certain government projects that we participate in. We do work with certain government agencies, and we continue to do so. But we have decided to focus on a few key areas. About 70-80% of work in India is in the data analytics space. That's where we believe we have good differentiation and hence, we are able to monetise that better.

How will the new AI-driven Cyber Defense Resilience Centre help your clients?
This centre is our biggest and modern CDRC. It has technology and processes to monitor clients' environment, quickly isolate the attack surfaces that get impacted & remediated, and actively hunt the threat. AI is embedded in the solutions, so it is able to quickly isolate the specific incidents and also is able to remediate. The security approach also has changed in the last few years. It's no longer about building bigger walls, but it is about expecting that you will get breached. As the attacks in terms of volumes have gone up for all enterprises, the level of sophistication in their attack has gone up. You can't do simple automation, AI solutions are required to automate and improve security operations, and that's what CDRC focuses on.

MONEY-WISE

CRYSTAL BALL GAZING ACROSS ASSET CLASSES

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

IT is not as much the stocks or mutual fund schemes one selects as much as it is the right asset allocation for a given period that contributes to wealth creation for an investor. In the light of this market belief, let us proceed to cast a glance across asset classes as they stand at this point in time.

A popular sub-asset class in India is Gold. With gold prices rising to new highs, there are concerns of it entering a price bubble territory. However, the ongoing hostilities in some parts of the world as well as aggressive posturing by nations with powerful armies, ensures that gold as the asset class of last recourse remains in demand. There is still some smart money accumulating the yellow metal in its more liquid investment forms via Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) as well as the Mutual Fund route. It continues to remain a hedge alongside large equity holdings to cushion portfolios in the event of a vertical fall in equities. At the moment, Silver too has emerged as an attractive option owing to an anticipated increase in demand for this precious metal, going forward.

The most popular asset class in India, even today remains debt. With the increase in bank interest rates in recent times, the traditional avenue of Bank Fixed Deposits has witnessed a revival of sorts and fixed income investors have rushed in to lock in high interest yielding deposits for longer tenures. That bank interest rates are a function of the inflation rate and it is important always to look at interest rates as net of inflation is often missed by investors.

Debt mutual funds whose USP was its tax arbitrage over its alternatives has taken some hard blows over in the last couple of Union Budgets which withdrew most of its tax advantages. Simply put, the mutual fund industry will need to recalibrate to make their debt mutual fund holdings more palatable to investors. There is also a plethora of traditional savings offerings from the government, albeit with investment caps which still remain popular among investors.

Though non-traditional, an emerging asset class that many young people are gravitating towards is Crypto-currencies. While I don't claim expertise in Crypto-currencies, its acceptance as legal tender in some parts of the world suggests that the concept could grow, subject to regulatory approval. Given its extreme volatility though, one needs to tread carefully though.

A high profile, even if somewhat minimally invested traditional asset class in India remains Equity. The general apprehension usually is that a deeper correction is round the corner. Those that believe it would do well to seek a switch to either safer debt instruments or equity offerings carrying lower risk by employing an inbuilt hedge mechanism. One can of course, also always take the view that historically most corrections have almost inevitably been followed by a rebound and hence, if one has no pressing near term need for the invested funds, stay invested.

Asset allocation and re-balancing require expertise and discipline. Seeking professional guidance might be prudent.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY FIN SERVICES IN INDIA WILL BOOM AND BLOOM

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE was a cheer when India's stock market registered the 100 millionth (10 crore) investor account. While that is an astounding number for most countries, it is just a fraction of the potential in India, with 1.4 billion (or 140 crore) people. Most market experts say the potential is three times more than the number. To have 300 million investor accounts would be an extraordinary development. That would be more than the population of the US and probably multiple times the number of individual investors in Europe.

Household savings are key drivers in an economy to finance growth. Surveys have shown that most savings are entered into physical assets in India. Most homes prefer to hoard real estate or gold. It is estimated that households in India have close to 24,000 tonnes of gold.

That is three times more than the Central Bank of the United States of America, the most influential central bank in the world. However, India needs households to deploy their savings into bank deposits and equity assets. That allows the financing of business expansion and creates new employment. Most Indian household wealth is still in physical assets like real estate and gold.

A new working paper published by the Reserve Bank of India shows that a lower unemployment rate increases the likelihood of household savings reaching financial asset categories like bank deposits, mutual funds and equity assets. It clearly shows that the risk appetite of households is enhanced with higher job security and regular income streams. The decision to put the money into fixed deposits and post office savings is primarily based on the interest rates. Household savings find their way into guaranteed return schemes due to their simplicity. However, the same does not hold for real estate and equity markets. That could be primarily because real estate is not an easy investment in India, and equity markets are complicated to understand when the right time to buy or sell is.

Financial services

The encouraging trend towards financial assets means the future holds suitable for banking finance services like stock broking and insurance. The sheer demography will likely expand the scope of business that companies in the sector offer. More banking services will be required. Households need not just basic banking but everything that helps individuals and households save and put more money into fixed deposits and other savings products. They need to seek more life and health insurance.

They would have done it sooner if they had not done it now. The surge in monthly systematic investment plans is another example of how savings are finding their way into the stock markets. As households earn a higher income, their allocation into SIPs is enhanced. It is a gradual process.

While that happens, companies that offer financial services to us, like banks, insurance companies, stock broking companies and mutual fund companies, expand their business. For India to become a developed nation, it requires large banks like those in China and the US with a balance sheet size that is much bigger than now.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

While that structural story unfolds, you need to think like an investor. Exposure to equity shares of financial services companies rapidly expanding their business is perhaps the most investible idea. There are multiple ways you can do that. You must engage a professional financial advisor to help you determine the correct allocation to the sector.

You can invest in index funds that track the Nifty Bank index. You can also own shares of top banks or listed stockbroking, insurance or asset management companies. If the financial services sector is going to boom and bloom, there is no reason why you cannot make the most of it.

FMCG makers expect inflation to hit volume growth, operating profit in Q3

PTI @ New Delhi

HIT by inflation, higher input costs and pricing measures, fast-moving consumer goods companies are expected to see a contraction in their gross margin and a modest-to-flat operating profit in the October-December quarter.

Several FMCG makers are likely to log a low single-digit rise in their revenue, returning to the cycle of value-driven growth.

One of the reasons could be that a number of companies have opted for a price hike in the December quarter due to rising costs of input items such as copra, vegetable oil, and palm oil. The price hikes came at a time when the urban market was dragged down by lowered consumption due to high food inflation. However, the rural market, which is slightly above one-third of the total FMCG market, stayed ahead of it. Some of the listed FMCG companies, such as Dabur and Marico, shared their updates for the third quarter of FY25, and analysts expect either flat or low single-digit volume growth.

Home-grown firm Dabur expects a "low single-digit growth" in the December quarter along with a "flattish operating profit" as it faced inflationary headwinds in some of the segments.

"In Q3, inflationary pressures were witnessed in some segments which were partially mitigated through tactical price increases and cost-efficiency initiatives. We anticipate flattish operating profit growth in Q3," said Dabur in an update for Q3FY25. Besides, in the December quarter, rural consumption for FMCG was resilient and continued to grow faster than urban, said the company.

It further said that alternative channels like modern trade, e-commerce, and quick commerce continued to post strong growth.

Rate cut to trigger growth: Muthoot

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

KOCHI-BASED Muthoot Microfin is hopeful of better days ahead, even as the industry faces headwinds. The second largest micro lender expects the third interest rate reduction earlier last month to attract more customers and also improve collections.

The publicly listed company, with a loan book of ₹12,500 crore as of September 2024, lowered its lending rates for the third time this fiscal in December, by 25 bps to 23.05% for group loans and by 125 bps to 22.70% for third-party product loans.

This has crimped its margins to 13.24%. Earlier in January 2024, it had slashed the interest rate by 55 bps and then in July by 35 bps.

Sadaf Sayeed, chief executive of Muthoot Microfin, said that this steep rate reduction will crimp its margins but chose to pass on the benefits of cheaper funds to borrowers because with increased market borrowings our cost of funds has come down to 10.3% now.

Sayeed based his optimism on the comparatively smaller exposure they have to Bihar, which is the largest market for the industry and where the maximum delinquencies have been reported for many months now.

He also pointed to Eastern Uttar Pradesh, which is facing serious collection issues.

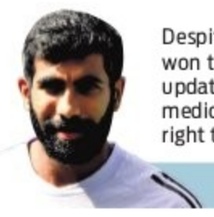
For Muthoot, Tamil Nadu is the largest market with 23% of the overall business.

"Almost 50% of our loans are in the South where there is no over-leveraging and so collections are not affected, barring Tamil Nadu, the second biggest market for the industry in December due to the cyclone. Our exposure to Bihar is only 8%, and our collections are still 95-96%," Sayeed told TNIE.

"Our biggest headache is Odisha and Jharkhand. In Odisha, the new BJP government has put on hold many freebies that the previous BJD government had launched in the run-up to the Assembly election. This has led to repayment delays now," he said, adding Jharkhand has its own unique issues. On asset quality, he said overall Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) stood at 2.7%, with non-southern markets reporting 3% and southern markets recording 2.5% in the second quarter.

He expects the number to remain at this level in the second half. Blaming negative real rural wages and the high inflation for the problems facing the industry, where many analysts say a third of the assets are stressed, he said the challenges will continue for some time. On the funding side, he said the Muthoot Pappachan Group company has bank loans worth ₹8,000 crore, forex loans worth ₹2,000 crore, including ₹900 crore from Standard Chartered Bank, and domestic debt through NCDs worth ₹350 crore.

Medical team is working on him: Head coach on Bumrah



Despite not bowling in the second innings of the final Test, Jaspirt Bumrah won the Player of the series for his 32 wickets. However, there were no updates on the injury concerns "Not at the moment honestly because the medical team is working on him. So we'll give you the right update at the right time," head coach Gautam Gambhir said in the press conference.

Seniors like Sharma & Kohli have come under scanner due to their poor returns Down Under but the result also brings support staff under scrutiny

MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

TNIE@ BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY
GOMESH S
SYDNEY

GAUTAM Gambhir was sitting at the press conference room of the Sydney Cricket Ground. It had been only a few minutes since Beau Webster and Travis Head let out a roar in the middle of the pitch after beating India to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 in front of a packed pink crowd on Sunday.

The head coach had addressed the media for the first time on this tour only three days ago. And when he did, he only added fuel to the speculations that had been doing rounds since the loss at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. So when he walked into the room after India lost by six wickets in two and a half days, there was a bit it unease in the air. He's been known to have been confrontational with the media. And it was the theme on Sunday as well. He was asked about the mistakes India made to lose the series after taking a 1-0 lead in Perth as the first step towards addressing them is acknowledging there is one. The response: "The first thing is that the person sitting here will accept the mistakes first. So you don't worry that mistakes will not be accepted here."

He went on to add that India had their moments where they could have won the series especially if they had drawn in Melbourne and had five bowlers in Sydney — Jasprit Bumrah did not take the field for bowling on Sunday as he had back spasms. He admitted that there is room for improvement in all three departments. It had been the kind of series where everyone often went "can we have one normal day?". Right from Perth to Sydney, not a single day of Test cricket was uneventful.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir (R) with assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate | AFP

On whether out-of-form players should play the last rounds of the Ranji Trophy

I would always like everyone to play domestic cricket. That is how much importance domestic cricket needs to be given. Not only one game, if they are available and they have the commitment to play red-ball cricket, everyone should play domestic cricket. As simple as it can get. If you don't give importance to domestic cricket, you will never get the desired players that you want in Test cricket.

On the future of Rohit and Virat

I can't talk about the future of any player, it's up to them as well. But yes, what I can say is that they still have the hunger, they still have the passion, they're tough people and hopefully, they can continue to take Indian cricket forward but ultimately as we all know whatever they plan, they will plan for the best interest of Indian cricket

Whether it was Rohit Sharma's batting position or his captaincy or his form with the bat or him opting out of Sydney or Virat Kohli's dismissals or Bumrah's injury or the biggest of all — R Ashwin's retirement — it was a series that had it all.

Although the focus had been on India's on-field performance and tactics and senior players' failure, youngsters' success, the head coach and his support staff — Abhishek Nayar, Ryan ten Doeschate, Morne Morkel and T Dilip — who will be under the lens over the next couple of months. Four months ago when Gambhir addressed the media ahead of his first Test as coach in Chennai, he was asked about the brand of cricket this team would take going forward. "I've always been a believer that the best style is the style that wins and we want to be a team that adapts and learns quickly, rather than adopting one style," he had insisted in September last year.

COACH GAMBHIR TENURE SO FAR*

Format	Test	ODI	T20I
M	10	3	3
W	3	0	3
L	6	2	—
D/NR/T	1	1	—

*SA T20I series which Gambhir skipped not included

60% As a head coach, Gambhir has lost six out of ten Tests so far

The results do not reflect the same. From the time Gambhir took over — the white ball tour of Sri Lanka — India have lost six of the ten Tests they have played, drawing just one. The two wins came against Bangladesh at home. Even in ODIs, India lost a series to Sri Lanka after several years. Gambhir did not travel to South Africa for the T20Is and the other series win in the shortest format was against Bangladesh at home. A lost home Test series after 12 years was followed by another defeat Down Under — India's first Test series loss to Australia in ten years. "It has been tough. Absolutely no doubt about it. It's been really tough and obviously, these weren't the results that we were expecting in the last eight Test matches but that is what sport is all about. All I can expect from that dressing room is to keep fighting and all we all can do is to be honest and keep fighting. Keep doing the right things. It's a result-oriented sport and we all play for results," he said.

While it is true that results haven't gone India's way, Gambhir did not get into specifics of the why. He said it is about temperament, commitment, and about putting on big scores in the first innings. It is something India haven't been able to do throughout this tour. That they were able to post 250-plus totals only thrice in five Tests tells the story. That is despite extending their batting depth to compensate for the out-of-form top-order. A point that is less talked about.

Though it is no fault of theirs — Nitish K Reddy has been outstanding, Mohammed Siraj had to bowl long and hard spells more often than he would have imagined, and Harshit Rana played two Tests, but he was not as effective as India would have liked him to be— that India played two all-rounders instead of a fourth seamer or another frontline bowler in the later stage of the series perhaps did not work. It meant Bumrah had to pull the workload he had to with little support and relief from the other end. That day four of the Melbourne Test was perhaps the last straw. He bowled ten overs on day two here in Sydney and then walked off, falling short of what could have been record-breaking figures in a Test series.

Make no mistake Bumrah has had a series others would dream of. But in prioritising batting depth — India played two spinners in Sydney where Nathan Lyon bowled six overs — they might not have given themselves the best chance at winning. It is just one of the many things India did not get right. While Rohit took the blame, and rightly so, standing down from the Sydney Test, what to make of the coaching staff and how they have not been able to produce the desired results is something the BCCI would be thinking about in the coming days.

There might not be any hurried decisions. India still have an ICC tournament to play next month. But just like how one cannot say for sure how the team looks when they leave for England in June, the same might just be the case of at least the support staff depending on how the next couple of months go.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Pat on the back for Cummins and Co

GOMESH S @ Sydney

VIRAT Kohli is pumped up. He runs in from first slip, hands aloft towards Mohammed Siraj. The pacer had just removed Usman Khawaja with a little over 50 runs to defend. After a frustrating half day on the field, it was the chance India needed. It was the moment of hope they wanted to keep fighting.

That hope was only fleeting as India's long-lasting nemesis Travis Head batted on. Along with Beau Webster, he ensured a famous Test match and series win for Australia here at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Day three. It was only fitting that Head was out in the middle as Webster hit Washington Sundar down the ground to ensure Australia a six-wicket win.

Oz captain Pat Cummins holds the Border-Gavaskar Trophy | AFP

SCOREBOARD

India 1st innings: 185, Australia 1st innings: 181, India 2nd innings (O/n 141/6): Jadeja c Carey b Cummins 13, Washington b Cummins 12, Siraj c Khawaja b Boland 4, Bumrah b Boland 0, Prasidh not out 1; **Extras:** (B-4, LB-4) 8; **Total:** (10 wkts, 39.5 overs) 157; **FoW:** 7-147, 8-156, 9-156; **Bowling:** Starc 4-0-36-0, Cummins 15-4-44-3, Boland 16.5-5-45-6, Webster 4-1-24-1. **Australia 2nd innings:** Konstas c Washington b Prasidh 22, Khawaja c Pant b Siraj 41, Labuschagne c Jaiswal b Prasidh 6, Smith c Jaiswal b Prasidh 4, Head not out 34, Webster not out 39; **Extras:** (B-5, LB-2, W-8, NB-1) 16; **Total:** (4 wkts, 27 overs) 162; **FoW:** 1-39, 2-52, 3-58, 4-104; **Bowling:** Siraj 12-1-69-1, Prasidh 12-0-65-3, Reddy 2-0-10-0, Washington 1-0-11-0.

With a target of 162 to defend, taking the field without Jasprit Bumrah, India need some inspiration. Bumrah batted but did not come out to bowl because of the back spasm from Saturday. And it was on Prasidh Krishna and Siraj to be on point from the word go. However, that was not happening. Both of them were bowling wide lines, giving width. Sam Konstas and Usman too came out attacking. They have seen enough to know a quick 40 would kill the contest. That is exactly what they were going for.

Kohli was marshalling the troops from the slip cordon while Shubman Gill was in the ears of the bowlers from mid-off throughout. It was off little help until Konstas miscued Prasidh. But when he fell, Australia were already 39/1. Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith did get out early thanks to the uneven bounce off Prasidh, giving India some hope. But then came Head on to the field. The longer he stayed on, the sooner India lost the contest. With Head, Usman too went for his shots before eventually getting out to Siraj. Maybe it was too little too late. Maybe they needed Bumrah on Sunday more than ever but in the end none of it mattered as Australia won the series 3-1. Pat Cummins had done the unthinkable. The last time it happened was under Michael Clarke, who led in the first Test before Steve Smith took over in 2014. Since then, Australia had lost twice in India and twice in Australia. India would have taken a 2-2 result with both their hands to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. However, in the end, despite all underlying issues both teams have in common, the better team won the match and series.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

VIJAY HAZARE

Karnataka in QFs, TN reach pre-quarters

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

KARNATAKA, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Baroda secured direct qualifications for the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy following the seventh and last league stage of the tournament on Sunday. Besides, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bengal and Rajasthan have qualified for the pre-quarterfinals.

As per the qualification criteria, top two teams from all 5 groups qualify for the knockouts with group toppers from all five groups directly qualifying for the quarterfinals. They were ranked from 1-5 based on their points/wins/NRR. The second-placed teams were ranked from 6-10 based on their points/wins/NRR with the sixth-ranked team qualifying for the quarterfinals along with the group toppers. Teams ranked from seven to 10 have to play pre-quarterfinals.

FIXTURES
(ALL MATCHES IN VADODARA)
Pre-quarterfinals (Jan 9): Haryana vs Bengal; Rajasthan vs TN; **Quarters (Jan 11):** Punjab vs Maharashtra; Karnataka vs Baroda; **(Jan 12):** Gujarat vs Winner of PQF 1; Vidarbha vs Winner of PQF 2

Earlier in the day, Karnataka thrashed Nagaland by nine wickets chasing 206 in a Group C match, with seasoned opener Mayank Agarwal making an unbeaten 116 off 119 balls after Shreyas Gopal picked up 4/24.

In a Group D match, Tamil Nadu got the better of Chhattisgarh by 73 runs after posting a formidable 301. Baba Indrajith (75) and Vijay Shankar (71) were the chief contributors for Tamil Nadu before Varun Chakravarthy (3/34) and his colleagues chipped in with the ball to skittle Chhattisgarh for 228. In Group A, Gujarat crushed Odisha to maintain an all-win record in the league stage.

Kerala's Noah Sadaoui (C) in action against Punjab FC on Sunday | ISL

Hard-fought win for nine-man Kerala in ISL

ENS @ Kochi

KERALA Blasters earned a hard-fought 1-0 away victory over Punjab FC in the Indian Super League in New Delhi on Sunday. After going ahead, Kerala were reduced to nine men after red cards for Milos Drinicic and Aibanbha Dohling in the second half. Noah Sadaoui's goal from the penalty spot in the first-half proved to be the difference-maker. In the end, Kerala did well to hold on to their lead. This was a much-needed win for Kerala, who are now placed ninth in the points table.

Noah's strike came at the stroke of half-time as he sent Punjab goalkeeper, Muheet Shabir, the wrong way from the penalty spot. Drinicic was shown a second yellow for pulling back a Punjab player near the penalty box while Dohling was handed a straight red for a clash against a player.

Earlier, Adrian Luna had come very close to breaking the deadlock with a powerful drive from just outside the box. However, Shabir had done well to tip the ball over the bar. Seconds later,

Punjab had the chance of their own but it was Kerala goalkeeper Sachin Suresh who stood firm this time, denying Nihal Sudeesh's effort.

Award motivates players even more, says Sanjay

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

AT 23, Sanjay was the youngest member of the Indian hockey team that won the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics. His efforts were duly recognised by the awards panel for the National Sports Awards 2024 as he received the Arjuna Award. The defender, currently representing Kalinga Lancers in the Hockey India League, spoke with this daily about the impact of this award, his humble beginnings and the ongoing competition. *Excerpts*

• On receiving the Arjuna

I was not aware that it was supposed to come out this early in the year. When I found out that I had received the Arjuna Award, I was delighted and proud. It is always a great feeling to contribute to a team's success, but when you get an award for that, it's even more special. I feel like this is one of the best recognitions a player can get after winning a medal for your country. It motivates us players to do even better in the future and bring more medals.

Kalinga Lancers' Sanjay in action | HIL

• On his support system

My family has supported me right from the time I started hockey. There was no pressure for me to do academically well or get a job to support them. They kept me away from tensions off the field. Along with my family, local coaches also supported me from the beginning. Then I moved to Chandigarh and spent 8-10 years learning hockey from there. When I made it to India camp, there were more opportunities for me to learn from some of the best players and coaches. I cannot thank my Olympic teammates and support staff enough. It is because of them we won the medal in Paris and I could receive the Arjuna Award. I want to dedicate the award to my entire support system.

• On his coach Sihag

When I started, there was a lack of good quality equipment. He was the first one to provide me with the equipment I needed. He would get mad if I missed going to practice for any reason. He has guided me throughout my career.

• Experience with Lancers

We are playing alongside some of the best players in the world in the Hockey India League. I have been able to pick up so many things by just observing the way these players handle themselves — whether it is at the dinner table or in the team meetings. We have a few legends of our game in our squad and it is a surreal experience to share this experience with them. We have Belgium's Alexander Hendrickx and Arthur Van Doren in our squad. I feel very privileged that I have this opportunity to learn from these two players. I think, for the up-and-coming players, this is the best opportunity to prove their talent. Maybe, many of them will get the opportunity to play for India if they do well here.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Soorma win thriller; TN Dragons too good for UP

ROURKELA: Goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch's stellar performance helped Soorma Hockey Club beat Kalinga Lancers 4-3 in the Hockey India League in Rourkela on Sunday. In the second match, Tamil Nadu Dragons rode on goals from Abharan Sudev ('48) and Thomas Sorsby ('60) to notch up a 2-0 win over UP Rudras.

EXPRESS READ

Injury scare for Osaka

AUCKLAND: Naomi Osaka's fitness for the Australian Open is in question after the four-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1 suffered an apparent abdominal injury Sunday while playing the final of a WTA tournament in Auckland.

Sagoo set to become AFI chief

NEW DELHI: Adille Sumariwalla's reign as Athletics Federation of India president for three straight terms will come to an end when Asian Games gold winner Bahadur Singh Sagoo will get elected to the top post during the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday.

Double delight for shooter Varun

NEW DELHI: Reigning Asian champion and multiple ISSF medallist Varun Tomar nailed a double, winning both the senior and junior men's 10m air pistol titles, at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC), being played here.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Man United hold PL leaders Liverpool in thrilling encounter

AGENCIES @ London

CRISIS-HIT Manchester United held Liverpool to a 2-2 draw at Anfield on Sunday but the runaway Premier League leaders moved six points clear at the top of the table.

Cody Gakpo cancelled out Lisandro Martinez's shock opener for United before Mohamed Salah put Liverpool ahead from the penalty spot, but Amad Diallo scored a late equaliser.

Meanwhile, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said he had never seen anything like Brighton's controversial penalty to earn a 1-1 draw on Saturday that dealt another seismic blow to the Gunners' title challenge. Shorn of many of their most potent attacking weapons, second-placed Arsenal led at half-time thanks to 17-year-old Ethan Nwaneri's strike. But two vital points slipped away when William Saliba was harshly punished for a clash of heads with Joao Pedro and the Brazilian slotted home the resulting spot-kick. "We are really disappointed with the decision that leads to the goal because I have never seen something like this in my life," said Arteta. "He (Saliba) touches the ball as well."

Manchester United's Lisandro Martinez (C) shoots to score the opening goal | AFP

With some big names missing for the Gunners, Nwaneri was the beneficiary with a second consecutive start and showed why he is one of the Premier League's rising stars.

Barcelona cruise

MADRID: Barcelona endured another setback while trying to register Dani Olmo and cruised past fourth-division club Barbastro 4-0 in the Copa del Rey on Saturday.

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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

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06.01.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

3-day work week

From this day, in 1974, commercial users of electricity were limited to three specified consecutive days' consumption each week

A MAJOR SHIFT

They were prohibited from working longer hours on those days. Essential services were exempt. The crisis had been caused by the switch in Britain's energy market from coal to oil

MINERS' RESPONSE

Oil energy's share overtook coal in 1970. Along with the introduction of nuclear energy, this led to coal miners feeling the transition was unjust

CRISIS CONTINUES

Around 7,30,000 workers were laid off and queued up at unemployment offices to register for government benefits

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

PICS: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

ART & BEYOND

Last weekend was a haven for art lovers in Bengaluru with over four lakh people attending the 22nd edition of Chitra Santhe, held on the first Sunday of every year on Kumara Krupa Road. This year's theme, focusing on the girl child, reinforced awareness about the violence perpetrated against women and girl children through 1,420 artworks. Chief Minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah, inaugurated the festival along with BL Shankar, the president of the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. Having gone hybrid for the first time, an online portal (chitrakalaparishath.org), open for a month, will allow a glimpse into the festivities for those who couldn't attend.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

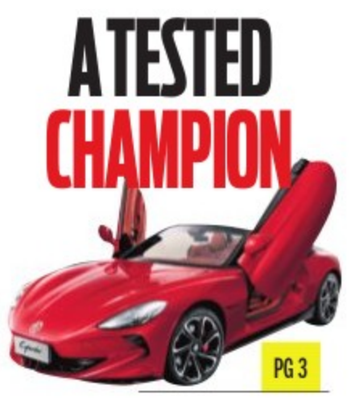
Send answers to **bengaluru cityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Smoor Chocolates (dine-in only)**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Vasilopita
2) Pierogi 3) Rosca

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Meenakshi V
2) Srinivas 3) Vijay Bhaskar



A TESTED CHAMPION

PG 3

'MONEYFESTING', DRIVING A LUXURY CAR OR BUYING A BEACH HOUSE – THE GROWING POPULARITY OF VISION BOARDING WORKSHOPS IN THE CITY REFLECTS A SHIFT TOWARDS INTENTIONAL LIVING THIS NEW YEAR

VISION 2025

POOJA DAS

HAVE you ever experienced a fleeting vision of your deepest desires – a perfect romance, witnessing cherry blossoms in full bloom, or standing atop the Eiffel Tower – and, for a brief moment, truly believed it was within your grasp? Often, such thoughts vanish as quickly as they appear, leaving us to dismiss them as mere fantasies. But what if embracing and believing in these visions could actually bring them to life? That is what vision boarding promises. Balasree Viswanathan, cofounder of Improv Lore, who recently conducted her first vision boarding workshop experienced the transformative power of this practice firsthand. "It's magic. People shy away from that word but it's true. You can shift the fabric of your reality with the right intentions," says Viswanathan.

From imagination to manifestation

In 2020, Viswanathan found herself in a job that seemed ideal but gradually became burdensome. She realised that her decisions were driven by fear–running away rather than moving toward something she truly wanted. This led her to create a modest vision board, placing it above her desk. "I remember writing something very specific: 'I am going to teach and travel internationally, at least once outside of Asia.' I added photos of places I wanted to go, things that inspired me. Within a few months, I got an email from a theatre in Germany inviting me to teach and perform improv," she shares.

Reflecting on this journey, Viswanathan notes, "It taught me that if I can't even dream of something – if I don't have the courage to admit to myself what I want – it definitely won't happen." She emphasises the importance of silencing the inner critic that imposes limiting beliefs, allowing oneself to dream and pursue goals. Her recent vision board workshop integrated improvisational theatre tools to help participants vividly imagine their goals, engaging all senses to create a tangible experience of their aspirations. She encouraged attendees to 'dream like children but take responsibility like adults'. She further adds, "People often perceive their ideal selves as distant or separate from who they are now. I used to think that way too. But I've come to believe there's no gap – you're already that person. It's more about uncovering and embracing who you are rather than chasing after an external ideal."

Not just about setting goals

Vision boarding is more than assembling a collage of material desires; it's an exercise in self-reflection and intentionality, starkly different from New Year resolutions. As self-mastery coach and founder of Being Meraklis, Shwetha Sivaraman, explains, "Many people think of it as simply putting a picture of a luxury car or a beach house on a board. While those goals are valid, vision boarding is much broader. It's about any transformation you aspire to for yourself – whether it's behavioural, emotional, or related to your mindset."

With workshops around vision boarding rapidly increasing around the city, Sivaraman says, "New Year's – despite being an arbitrary concept – often serves as a time for reflection, which is what makes it so right for these workshops." Sivaraman also points out that while this exercise does not necessarily have to be in a group, there are benefits to it. "In a group, you're exposed to new ideas and when you share your goals, there's a sense of accountability," says Sivaraman.

Enhancing manifestation

Incorporating unique elements into the practice, Archana Sanjay, founder of Our Magic Rainbow, specialises in 'switchword' products – words that activate the subconscious mind. Her vision boarding workshops introduce vision journals infused with 'switchwords' and number frequencies to enhance manifestation. "Everything in the universe has a frequency and energy," Sanjay explains. "By charging water with specific frequencies and integrating switchwords, we can influence our subconscious mind to align with our desires." The workshop, priced at ₹2,499, covered aspects like health, travel, spirituality, relationships, and finances, providing participants with tools like motivational affirmations and energised pens to aid in decision-making.

WHAT NOT TO DO?

Sivaraman says that one of the biggest mistakes is skipping the reflection process. "In our workshops, we spend the majority of the time reflecting – journalling about what has worked, what hasn't, and what truly resonates. Without that foundation, vision boards can feel superficial," she shares. Another misconception, she adds, is treating vision boards as a wish list for material possessions.

CITY READ

Company launches eco-friendly gensets

Escon Gensets, the authorised manufacturer of products for Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, launched the CPCB IV+ gensets, a combination of an engine and electrical generator used to produce electrical power. Sumit Gupta, General Manager of Mahindra Powerol and Prashanth Dandhaniya, Managing Director of Escon Gensets, officiated the launch. Manufactured at Dabaspet, the gensets feature advanced technology with common rail diesel engines. Designed for high-fuel efficiency, they emit significantly less pollution than the standards set by the Pollution Control Board.

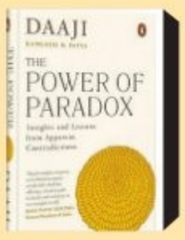
'Pro Ludo Star League' to start this month

Pro Ludo Star League, featuring entertainment personalities is set to launch in the month of January. Organised by Astra Productions and directed by Sudhesh Bharani with Azfar Razak as the executive producer, the league will consist of eight teams with 16 popular movie and television stars alongside 16 prominent models. Arun Hariharan and Jhanvi will anchor the Ludo League. With the colourful indoor arena of 40*40 sqft, player interactions, and coin girls replacing traditional coins, the league promises a visual treat to the audience.

Hackathon to be organised for women

The Data Security Council of India will be organising the #CyberforHER Hackathon for Indian women aged between 18-23 interested in cybersecurity. The hackathon aims to raise awareness about the growing need for cybersecurity skills for women, offering mentorship and networking opportunities with female leaders in technology from India and the UK. The hackathon will be conducted in two phases; technical and non-technical. After the non-technical phase, which will be conducted virtually, the top 200 participants will be selected for the second phase. The winning team will be awarded a prize of up to ₹2,00,000, and all participants will receive a certificate of participation. Registration is free, with a deadline of January 15. For more details, contact hackathon@dsci.in

BOOK NOOK

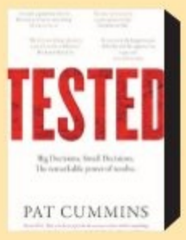


The Power of Paradox
By Kamlesh D Patel

The book is an exploration of twenty-two everyday paradoxes combined with spiritual and scientific enquiry. Helmed with the heartfulness way of living, these practices will help one clear the mind and unburden emotions of the heart.

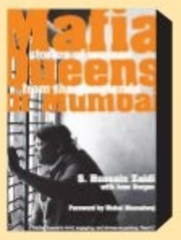
Bring It On
By Deepa Malik

A memoir that will ignite and inspire people from all walks of life, no matter the challenges confronting them, *Bring It On* is a must-read.



Tested: The Remarkable Power of Resolve
by Pat Cummins

Tested is a book of insight and hard-earned wisdom about how the power of resolve to make decisions, big and small, and see them through, is at the heart of all our stories.



Mafia Queens of India
by S Hussain s, Jane Borges

A well-researched book on 13 women who went on to leave their permanent mark on the face of the Mumbai Mafiosi, from the author of *Black Friday*.

BOOKED IN HUES

A volunteer guides a visitor through Vibrant Books, an exhibition of work by Kohei Sugiura, a Japanese artist known for his graphic design philosophy held at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur | **ALLEN EGENUSE J**

QUICKFIX

CLASSIC WAFFLES

INGREDIENTS

- **All-purpose flour:** 2 cups
- **Salt:** 1 tsp
- **Baking powder:** 4 tsp
- **White sugar:** 2 tsp
- **Eggs:** 2
- **Warm milk:** 1 ½ cup
- **Melted butter:** 1 cup
- **Vanilla extract:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- In a large bowl, mix all the dry ingredients like flour, salt, baking powder, and white sugar.
- In a separate bowl, beat 2 eggs. Add warm milk, melted butter, and vanilla extract. Whisk together.
- Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. Do not overmix; it's okay if there are some lumps.
- Heat the pan over medium heat and lightly grease it. Pour about ¼ cup of batter onto the hot surface for each pancake. Cook for some minutes on each side, or until golden brown.
- Serve the pancakes hot with your favourite toppings like chocolate syrup.

Contributed by **Priyanshi Garodia**, Bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Dance for the Heart

Witness a heartfelt performance *Amarushataka* by Bharatanatyam dancers **Smruthi Vishwanath** and **Indu Ramdas** through a story woven with elegant Sanskrit poems. With shringara as the main rasa, experience an encapsulation of adhidaiva, adhibhūta and adhyātma - the aspects of an ideal couple.

WHEN: January 6, 6pm
WHERE: Medai The Stage, Koramangala
DETAILS: ticketed.in

Aromatic Art

If you are looking for a combination of serenity and artsy activity, this two-hour candle-making workshop is for you. Blend essential oils to customise fragrances and take home three beautiful candles all made by you.

WHEN: January 6, 5pm
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Fly like a Bird

Enjoy a 360-degree view from a height of more than 1,000 feet above ground level at this paramotoring experience with the assistance of trained professionals.

WHEN: January 7, 6.05am
WHERE: Meeting Point-NH648, Devanahalli
CALL: 8748819333

Live Music

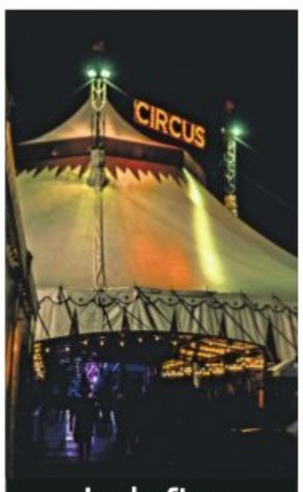
Enjoy original compositions and storytelling by artistes **Ranj X Clifr**, a pop/hip-hop/R&B duo from Bengaluru and Yatharth Bakshi, a 22-year-old musician, fusing 2000s rock with modern alt-indie.

WHEN: January 11, 8pm onwards
WHERE: PizzaExpress, Koramangala
CALL: 96328 55858

Cutting-edge Art

Unleash the artist in you with a beginner-friendly boho-themed palette knife painting on canvas workshop and learn to paint with texture.

WHEN: January 6, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Jumbo Circus

Get ready to be amazed by the classic entertainment of the circus. With a touch of modern style and nostalgic reunion, take home a core memory of wonder, excitement and surprise.

WHEN: January 6, 1pm onwards
WHERE: Jumbo Circus, Krishnarajapuram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Attention, Aspiring Author!

Whether your genre of writing is adventure, comedy, drama, tragedy, or anything else, this event welcomes all authors to have a meaningful conversation on anything and everything related to writing.

WHEN: January 6, 6.30pm **WHERE:** Slay Coffee, Electronic City
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

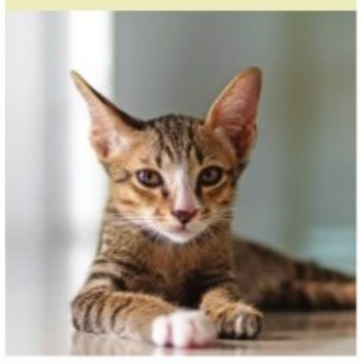
DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

Since the beginning of the winter, my three-year-old cat has been sneezing a lot. Does he have a cough and cold problem? How do I need to tackle it and give him relief?

If your cat has been sneezing more since winter started, it might indicate a respiratory infection, allergies, or dry air. While cats don't catch "colds" like humans, they can develop upper respiratory infections or react to changes in their environment. To provide relief, keep the air humidified, prevent drafts, and ensure your cat has a warm, comfortable spot to rest. If the sneezing continues for several days or is accompanied by symptoms like coughing, nasal discharge (with varying colors), or loss of appetite, it's important to consult your vet for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Cats are prone to allergic asthma; owners must realise that certain respiratory conditions in cats can only be managed.

ASK AN XPERT



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

BHADRASANA
(GRACIOUS POSE)

This is a basic yoga pose suitable for beginners. It is a great asana for meditation as it is comfortable and can be held for extended periods of time. Practising this pose calms the mind and brings about feelings of groundedness. It also activates the Muladhara (root) chakra. In the Hatha Yoga Pradipika, it is mentioned as one of the four main positions suitable for meditation. It is also mentioned in the yoga texts of Gheranda Samhita and Hathratnavali. This pose controls the body as well as mind. It is very beneficial for our body. It helps to keep us away from many problems occurring in our body.

STEPS

- Sit in Dandasana (Staff Pose), legs fully stretched forward, toes pointing upwards. You can keep both your hands beside the body, palms resting on the mat.
- Keep the chin drawn in, look at a point forward while keeping your head and neck straight.
- Take slow and deep breaths and relax the entire body.
- Now, separate the knees as far as possible and fold both legs and bring them close to each other. The heels can touch the perineum very closely.
- Make sure that your toes are in contact with the floor while separating the knees.
- You may clasp the feet to bring the heels as close to the perineum. Ensure the knees touch the ground.
- Take slow and deep breaths, and relax the whole body. If you feel a strain or heaviness in the eyes, then close them for a while.
- You can practise this asana according to your ability.
- Finally, release the pose and relax in Balasana (Child Pose)

LIMITATIONS

- Students suffering from knee or joint pain, knee or hip injuries, arthritis, sciatic nerve, have tenderness, misalignment, swelling and pain, should avoid this practice.
- Start practicing this asana mildly and then increase repetitions gradually.
- Pregnant women should consult a yoga expert before practising it.

BENEFITS

- Sharpens the mind while increasing your concentration and memory.
- Beneficial for the lungs and heart function.
- Reduces extra belly fat as well as the fat on the waist.
- Good alternative for meditation poses like Padmasana and Siddhasana.
- Helps relieve pain in the neck, back and resolves sciatica.
- Natural and safe way treats many stomach problems.
- Helps strengthen the backbone, thighs, hips and buttocks.
- Beneficial for increasing, lengthening and strengthening the pelvic floor, which is helpful in a smooth delivery.
- Strengthens leg muscles.
- Boosts functioning of the thyroid gland as well as the reproductive and abdominal organs
- Improves the health of prostate, kidneys and the urinary tract.
- Regular practice helps stimulate the ovaries and removes frigidity
- Help in resolving anal-rectal diseases, hemorrhoids and hernia.
- Helps stretch the ligaments and muscles.
- Best asana for removing symptoms of gastritis, acidity, and constipation.
- Regular practise helps realign the rounded back and drooping shoulders.
- Good for the patients who are suffering from aching leg muscles and varicose veins.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

RURAL MUSE

This painting by Thota Vaikuntam depicts folk influences with village women in bright sarees, traditional jewellery, and broad bindis

A TESTED CHAMPION

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

Offering unmatched comfort, modern tech, excellent fuel efficiency and Toyota's legendary reliability, the Camry Hybrid is set to dominate the Indian road scape

THE Indian car market is set for an exhilarating finish to 2024 with exciting launches in the sedan segment. Leading the pack is Toyota's Camry Hybrid, the Japanese carmaker's longest-running nameplate in India.

Now in its ninth edition, the premium sedan, already known for its spacious cabin, exceptional comfort, and solid stability, introduces modern features to match contemporary expectations. I had the opportunity to experience the new Camry Hydrid in Bengaluru. Here's my take.

Exterior

The new Camry boasts a refreshed design, with a front end that resonates with the electric car revolution, fitting since it operates on a petrol-electric hybrid powertrain.

A sloping bonnet, sharp creases, a chiselled nose, sleek LED headlamps, and a well-designed bumper create an attractive front profile. The 18-inch alloys and a strong shoulder line add to its side profile, while a V-shaped tail lamp and sleek rear design complete the look.

Interior

Inside, the cabin exudes premium appeal, with grey and black panels complemented by yellowish-brown soft leather upholstery for a classy ambience. The horizontal lines on the dashboard enhance the sense of width, featuring a 12.3-inch touchscreen and a matching instrument cluster. Physical switches for basic controls ensure ease of use while driving.

Seating

The front seats, wide and supportive, are ventilated and offer 10-way power adjustments with ample lumbar support. Memory functions for the seats, steering wheel, and outside rearview mirror add convenience. The rear seats reflect an executive sedan character, offering reclining functions, a "boss mode" for adjusting the front seats, and a dedicated AC zone as part of the 3-zone climate control system. While spacious, the rear armrest may reduce comfort for a centre passenger.

Powertrain & performance

The Camry is powered by Toyota's 5th-generation hybrid technology, combining a 2.5-litre petrol engine with an electric motor. The self-charging lithium-ion battery eliminates the "charging anxiety" typical of electric vehicles. The petrol engine delivers 184 hp, while the electric motor adds 134 hp, for a combined output of 227 hp and 221Nm of torque. The transmission is a seamless electronic CVT.

The car starts on battery power and shifts to petrol when needed, maximising efficiency in city driving. A claimed mileage of 25.49 kmpl is impressive, though real-world figures might range around 20 kmpl with careful driving. With three driving modes — Eco, Normal, and Sport — the Camry caters to both fuel-conscious and performance-focused drivers. Ground clearance is 145 mm, which may not be ideal for rough roads, but the Camry handles occasional patches well, offering excellent comfort and stability.

Safety

The Camry features Toyota Safety Sense 3.0, a Level 2 ADAS suite, which includes Lane Tracing Assist, a Pre-Collision System, Adaptive Cruise Control, and Automatic High/Low beam adjustment. Parking is made easier with a 360-degree panoramic view monitor, and the Vehicle Approach Notice System enhances pedestrian safety. Other safety features include nine airbags, parking assist, hill start assist, an electronic parking brake with brake hold, and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

Price and variants

The Camry is available in a single variant, Elegance, priced at ₹48 lakh (ex-showroom). A sportier Sprint edition will launch in April 2025, featuring blackened design elements, alloy wheels, and a dual-tone colour scheme, with no mechanical changes.

Verdict

The Toyota Camry Hybrid is a solid choice for those seeking a premium sedan with unmatched comfort, modern tech, excellent fuel efficiency, and Toyota's legendary reliability. While the price may invite comparisons with entry-level luxury cars, the low cost of ownership and durability tip the scales in its favour.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASES

MEET CYBERSTER, THE WORLD'S FASTEST MG ROADSTER

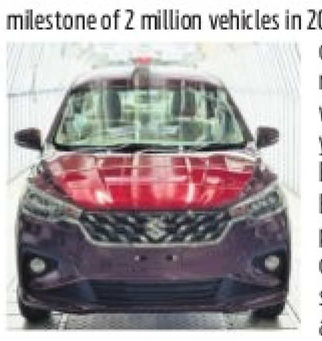
JSW MG Motor India's luxury channel, MG Select, unveiled a performance teaser for the MG Cyberster, the world's fastest MG roadster. Drawing inspiration from the iconic MG B Roadster of the '60s, the Cyberster blends retro aesthetics with cutting-edge technology, featuring an aerodynamic Kammback design and India's first-ever electric scissor doors. With a dual-motor powertrain delivering 510 PS and 725 Nm, the Cyberster promises thrilling performance for automobile enthusiasts.

HONDA LAUNCHES BOLD, NEW SP160

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India launched the OBD2B-compliant SP160, featuring a bold new design and a 162.71cc single-cylinder engine. Producing 9.7 kW of power and 14.8 Nm of torque, the SP160 meets updated government regulations while offering a refined riding experience. Prices start at ₹1,21,951 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

MARUTI SUZUKI MARKS 2 MILLION VEHICLES PRODUCTION MARK

Maruti Suzuki India Limited achieved a production milestone of 2 million vehicles in 2024, becoming the only OEM in India to reach this landmark within a calendar year. Baleno, Fronx, Ertiga, WagonR, and Brezza were the top-produced models, contributing to this significant achievement.



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs. Leena Gupta, age 49 years, wife of Mr. Pankaj Gupta, residing at Flat No. G3/411, Chorasia Manor, PH-2, Kaverappa Layout, near Vidya Vikas School, Panathur, Bangalore-560103 have changed my name from **KM. Shweta Seth to Leena Gupta** vide Affidavit dated 04-01-2025 sworn before advocate and notary Roopa G. Bhandare, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ramaiah S.T., son of Mr. Thimmaiah, aged about 52 years, residing at No. 42, SNT Road, Satyanarayana Temple, Halasuru, Bangalore - 560008, have changed my name from **Ramaiah Thimmaiah to Ramaiah S.T** vide Affidavit dated 03-01-2025 sworn before advocate and notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
This is to declare that I SHWETHA NARENDRA, aged about 36 years wife of Late.Sri. Narendra Ramegowda Seesandra, Daughter of Sri. Amarnath Reddyhalli Seenappa and Mrs.Meenakashi Munnegowda, vide Affidavit dated 01/01/2025, sworn to before Notary Public Mr.J.ANAND KUMAR, Hereafterwards, I wish to be called and known for all acts, records, deeds and things as **Shwetha.R.A,**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUPRIYA B T, W/o Vinay Nagaraj, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No.1161, 10th B Cross, HIG-B Sector, Near BBMP Office Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, I declare that below names mentioned belong to only one person and that person is **VINAYA NAGARAJ** i.e **VINAY NAGARAJ** my husband only. I declare that my husband correct name is **VINAY NAGARAJ.,** vide affidavit dated 3/1/2025 sworn to before G.R.Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA THUKARAM,** W/o. Suresh Rathnam, residing at#11, Munshigalli, Shivan Chetty Garden, Bengaluru 560042, Karnataka State, have changed my name from **ANITA THUKARAM** to **ANITHA THUKARAM,** vide affidavit dated: 04.01.2025, before Notary **Bhagya Kumari N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGA THRIPURA SUDHA SUSARLA,** age 42 years, W/o Mr. Dwarakanath Mylavarapu, R/at No. 14, Saastha, 2nd Cross Road, Jayanthi Nagar Extension, Horamavu, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **NAGA THRIPURA SUDHA SUSARLA** and **SUDHA MYLAVARAPU** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **NAGA THRIPURA SUDHA SUSARLA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20th Dec. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RAVI KUMAR .V** at Bangalore.

DECLARATION
I, **RAMESH H J** Aged abut 39years, Residing at No.48/1, 8th A Cross, Mahadeshwara Nagar Main Road, Maruthi Nagara, Herohalli, Bangalore-560091. Hereby submit that my Aadhar card is mentioned as Ramesh H J Father Name Jayaram H K, And in my 10th Standard Marks Card my name mentioned as Ramesha H J Father Name Jayarama H K. Declaring that both names **Ramesh H J and Father Name Jayaram H K and Ramesha H J Father Name Jayarama H K are one and the same belongs to me only,** vide affidavit dated 24-12-2024 sworn before notary and advocate T.V.Bhadravijaya, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Smt. PADMAJA MURTHY C,** aged about 49 years, D/o. Sri Chikkanagappa and Smt. Sampangamma, W/o. Sri B. Vasudevamurthy, residing at No. 30, "Kamadhenu", Canara Bank Road, Konanakunte Cross, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru-560062, do hereby declare that **C. PADMAJA** and **PADMAJA MURTHY C** both signatures are one both are my Signatures only, I State that **PADMAJA MURTHY C,** hereby declare that all the documents are signed by me only, vide affidavit dated 01.01.2025, sworn to before G.R. Rajanna, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Indu Bhandari**, W/o. Suresh Kumar, R/at No. 6, 1st Floor, 20th Cross, RT Street, Bangalore - 560 053, do hereby declare that **Indu Bhandari** and **Indu Devi** is one and the same person. vide affidavit dated 17.08.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Venkatapati Narayan Shetty S/o Narayana V Shetty R/@ No. 72, Nandana, 6th Cross, Gayathri Layout, Basavanapura Road, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru-560036 do hereby solemnly state that, both **VENKATAPATI** and **VENKATAPATI NARAYAN SHETTY** names refers to one person i.e., me only vide affidavit dated 03.01.2025 sworn to Notary S. Subashini.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Darshita K.** R/@ No.67, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Royal Shelters, BTM 4th Stage, Bangalore-560076. I have changed my name from **DARSHITA** to **DARSHITA K.** for all my future correspondence, records, transactions, private as well as upon all occasion & all other purpose vide affidavit dated 20.12.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary B.Hanumantharaya, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GOWRI HEGDE KAMATH** R/at No.115/1-7, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560001 have changed my name to **GOWRI HEGDE** Vide affidavit dated: 30/12/2024 Before Notary **Sivakumara M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, the undersigned **SOOHEL B ALI** previously called SUHAIL ALI, resident of 102, Saket Apartments, 1st Main Road, 2nd stage, 3rd cross, MSH Layout, Anand Nagar, Bangalore-560024, Karnataka State, have changed my name from **SUHAIL ALI** to **SOOHEL B ALI,** vide affidavit dated: 24/7/2024 before Notary **Sivakumara M.N,** Bengaluru.

DECLARATION
I, **Smt. NAGAVENI,** W/o Narasimha, age 29 years, R/at No. 116, 19th Cross, B. Ramaiah Colony, Bandappa Garden, Muthyala Nagar, Bangalore-54 do hereby declare that my daughter's correct name is **N. VYSHNAVI,** but in her Sukanya Samriddhi Account, her name is wrongly mentioned as **BATTALA VAISHNAWI** or **VISNAVI BATTALA** instead of **N. VYSHNAVI,** vide affidavit dated 03-01-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ARUNA .V** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRAJNA VINAY** W/o. Vinay Kumar M. C., aged about 28 years, and previously called as PRAJNA U. NAYAK, Residing at No. 991/7/1, Sheshadri Nilaya, Dwarakanagar, Channasandra, R.R.Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, Karnataka. I have changed my name from **"PRAJNA U. NAYAK"** to **"PRAJNA VINAY"** here afterwards I wish to be called, Sign and known for all acts, deeds and things as **"PRAJNA VINAY"** only. vide affidavit dated **04-01-2025** sworn to before Notary **Neha Baddi** advocate & Notary at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KEERTHANA NAGARAJ,** D/o. Nagaraja Periyapatna Gopalan and W/o. Arnav Anil Bagalwadi, aged about 27 years, previously residing at "Mathrushree", 1275/717, 14th Cross, Giri Nagar, 2ns Phase, Hoskerehalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560085, and now residing at NISCHINT, # 29, KHB Colony Main Road, Hanumanthappa Layout, Sultanpalya, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560032, do hereby declare that my maiden name **Ms. Keerthana Nagaraj** and the Present Name **Mrs. Keerthana Arnav Bagalwadi** is the name of one and the same person and that is myself., and now I have changed my name to **Mrs. Keerthana Arnav Bagalwadi**, vide affidavit dated 04.01.2025, sworn to before K.V. Bachi Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs. VARALAKSHMI K W/o. Karamchand K, Aged about 46 Years Residing at No. 185, Kannan Complex, Chikkabettahalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore -560097, have changed my name from **VARALAKSHMI T R** and **VARALAKSHMI KARAMCHAND** to **VARALAKSHMI K,** vide affidavit dated 4/1/2025 sworn to before S.R.Ravikumar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) B.J.PHANIRAJ, residing at No.19, Central Street, Kumara Park West, Bangalore 560 020, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) B.J.PHANIRAJ** to **(NEW NAME) B.J.PHANIRAJA** vide affidavit dated 20.12.2024 sworn before Notary Chitra, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAUSHEEN KHADER** R/at No.42/2, 1st Cross, Shah Layout, Vivekananda Nagar, Bengaluru - 560033 have changed my name to **NAUSHEEN KHADER HABIB** vide affidavit dated: 30/12/2024 Before Notary **Sivakumara M.N** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KUMARI SIVANISHRI,** D/o R Viswa Prasad, age 27 years, R/at No. 48, Kondappa Layout, Maruthi Nagar, Yelahanka, Benglauru-560 064 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KUMARI SIVANISHRI** to **VARSHINI .V,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VARSHINI .V** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 04th Jan 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Diwakar .N Kagawad** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TAPSH MONDAL,** S/o. Benjamin Mondal, aged 35 years, R/o.Near Government Hospital, Dakhin Chandra, Santipur, Nadia, West Bengal 741121, currently camped at Bengaluru, have changed my name from **TAPSH MONDAL** to **TAPAS MONDAL** vide affidavit dt. 24/9/2024 before Notary **L. GOPALAKRISHNA,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Kirsten Dominic Raymond, son of Air Vice Marshal Walter Raymond (Retd), residing at No. 16 Stirling Road, Queens Condo, # 16-14, Singapore – 148957 (and in India at No. 60 Miller Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560046), have changed my name from **Kirsten Raymond** to **Kirsten Dominic Raymond** vide Affidavit/Apostille No. AC0O9U0J8D, dated 19 December 2024 (19-12-2024) duly notarized by Notary Public (Singapore), Sumitri M. Menon, and duly adjudicated at the Office of the District Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru, on the 02nd January 2025, vide No. SJN/Cert.10-A/2588/2024-25.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **FASEEHANA** W/o. of Mr. Saleem Ahmed Khan, aged about 65 years, Residing at No. 680, 9th Main, 21st Cross, HSR Layout, 7th Sector, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560102, do hereby declare that after my marriage to Mr. Saleem Ahmed Khan, my surname has been changed to **FASEEHANA SALEEM**, and accordingly my official records viz., Passport, Aadhar Card, Voter Id and PAN Card reflects my name as **FASEEHANA SALEEM,** and I State and declare the aforesaid names referred to me as I have been called as **FASEEHANA** and as well as **FASEEHANA SALEEM** and both the names referred to me and to avoid any sort ambulgity, vide affidavit dated 04.01.2025, sworn to before Anuradha, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt SUSAI MARIAMMA, W/o Late G AROCKIA SWAMY, residing at No 374 Near St Maical School, Kogilu Layout Bengalore North Bengaluru 560 064, (aged about 74 years), I declare that below mentioned my husband's names **G AROCKIA SWAMY** and **AROGYA SWAMY** same person only and have changed my name from **SUSAI MARY** to **SUSAI MARIAMMA,** vide affidavit dated 2/1/2025 sworn to before S.R.Ravikumar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHAISTA KAUSAR, residing at No. 25/A, Dwell, 6th Cross, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru 560032, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHAISTA KAUSAR** to **(NEW NAME) S SHAHISTA KOUSAR** vide affidavit dated 04.01.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TABASUM ARA** R/at No, 4, Bellahalli Main Road, Kogilu Layout, Yelahanaka, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to **TABASSUM ARA** vide affidavit dated: 3/1/2025 Before Notary **G.Dakshahini** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIJAYA KUMAR .C.R,** C/o D. Rangaiah, age 44 years, R/at No. 19, 3rd Main, Jnanaganga Nagar, Mariyappanapalya, Vishwavidyalaya, Bengaluru-560 056 do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **SURAJ** to **RAGHAV .C.V,** henceforth he shall be known and called as **RAGHAV .C.V** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 04-01-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ
[illegible] 49 [illegible] (MURTHY .N) [illegible] (MURTHY.N) [illegible] (HUCHAIAH) [illegible] (MURTHY.N) [illegible] (HUCHAIAH) [illegible] (MURTHY.N) [illegible] 2025 [illegible]

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. MEENAKUMARI.S** D/o Srinivasaiah Ramaiah, Residing at No.147, 1st floor, Near Church KS Town, Mahaveer Willow Apartment, Kengeri, Bengaluru- 560060. My name **MEENAKUMRAI.S, MEENA SHIVAKUMAR & MEENAKUMARI.S** belong to the same person. I declared that I changed my name as **MEENAKUMRAI.S,** Vide affidavit Dated: 03.01.2025 before Notary H.R.KARUNAKARA, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Chinky .M. Kothari**, W/o. Mehul P Kothari, R/at No. 23/5, Govindappa Road, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004, do hereby declare that, **Chinky .M. Kothari, Chinky .S. Bhandri** and **Chinky Bhandri** is one and the same person. I hereby declare that my correct name is **Chinky .M. Kothari** vide affidavit dated 17.08.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Vijaya Ramesh, wife of Ramesh Krishnaswamy, aged 70 years, residing at 007, Poorna Palace Apartments, 12th 'A' Cross, 2nd Main, JP Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bengaluru 560078, have changed my name from **Vijaya Muthusundaram** to **Vijaya Ramesh,** vide affidavit dated 4/1/2025 sworn to before Mohammed Hussain K Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Shri. **SUDHEER HEBBALE RAMASWAMY** S/o, Late H V Ramaswamy r/a B3 - 704, L & T South City, Arakere MICO Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru South - 560076, hereby declare that my daughter **GOWRI SUDHEER HEBBALE's** name is wrongly mentioned as **GOWRI S. HEBBALE** in her school records. Hence, I, expressly authorise and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address her by such assumed name of **GOWRI SUDHEER HEBBALE.** This affidavit is sworn on 04th January 2025 before ADVOCATE & NOTARY, **G. DAYANANDA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BADUGU TEJASWINI** aged about 21 Years, D/o **Venkata Srinivasa Rao Badugu,** R/at F-120, MJ Lifestyle Amadeus Apartments, Rayasandra, Huskur, Anekal, Bengaluru-560099 have changed my name to **TEJASWINI** With surname **BADUGU** vide affidavit dated: 3/1/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHWATH GOWDA .D.A,** S/o D.M. Anjinappa, age 51 years, R/at Doddadasarahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District do hereby declare that my daughter's correct name is **YOSHIKA SURYATEJASWINI,** but in her educational records, her name is wrongly mentioned as **YOSHIKHA SOORYA TEJASWINI** instead of **YOSHIKA SURYATEJASWINI,** vide affidavit dated 17-12-2024, sworn before advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA .N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt.Kusuma Nayak,** W/o Late Ashish S, aged about 36yrs residing at C2-102, Ramki One North, Doddaballapura Road, Avalahalli, Yelahanaka, Bengaluru - 560064 do hereby declare that my name is **Kusuma Nayak** and not **Pushpamma** as mentioned my husband's death certificate issued by BBMP vide No.803162/B/D/2024/002987 dated 23.02.2024 vide affidavit dated 04.01.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary **Bachireddy** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VEDIKA,** aged about 37 years, D/o. Prem Prakash Lakshani, Flat A 1004/05, Siroya Environ A Block, 10th Floor, Shumangali Sevaasharam Road, Anandnagar Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SWATHI DAMANI** to **VEDIKA,** vide affidavit dated 04.01.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Sonu**, W/o. Sankit Kumar, R/at No. 28/30, Patel Building, Susheela Road, Near Lalbagh West Gate, Chikkamavalli, Bangalore - 560 004, do hereby declare that, **Sonu** and **Sonu Bhandari** is one and the same person. vide affidavit dated 17.08.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt.SHWETA VORA, aged about 39 years, W/o Sunil Mehta, residing at No.56, 8th Cross, Central Street, Kumara Park West. Bangalore-560 020 have changed my name to **Smt.SHWETA MEHTA** Vide affidavit dated: 23.11.2011 before advocate and notary Ramachandrappa, Bengaluru.

SMART ADS

TOURS
07/01/2025, 12/03/2025, 09/04/2025 Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand 7/11 days
11/02/2025, 18/03/2025, 13/04/2025 Srilank 7 days
11/02/2025, 05/03/2025, Gujarat 8 days
07/02/2025, 13/03/2025 Ujjain-Omkareshwara 4 Days
20/02/25, 18/03/2025 Rajastan 9 days
10/03/2025, 17/03/2025 Kashi Gaya, Ayodhya 4/7 days
23/02/2025, 20/03/2025 Puri, Bhubaneshwara 4 days
07/02/2025, 17/03/2025, Madhya Pradesh 10 Days
07/02/2025, 16/02/2025, 11/03/2025 North East Tour 6/9 Days.
JAIN TRAVELS
Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03.
9448402248, 7022547922

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

VISHAL ATREYA TO DIRECT SRIIMURALI IN MEGA PROJECT

A SHARADHAA

EARLIER, we reported that SriiMurali, who was last seen in Kannada's first superhero saga *Bagheera*, will join forces with the popular production house People Media Factory for an ambitious new project. The film was first announced in December, coinciding with the actor's birthday, which built excitement among fans. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad, the film has been in the works for some time, although details regarding the director were kept under wraps. However, CE has learnt through sources that Vishal Atreya, the director of the critically acclaimed *Tatsama Tadbhava*, will helm this much-anticipated project.

Vishal, who made his directorial debut with the suspense thriller Tatsama Tadbhava, which marked the return of Meghana Raj Sarja, earned praise for his sharp execution and intricate storytelling. With this new project, Vishal is getting his big break to direct a leading star like SriiMurali, who has a big success with *Bagheera*. Vishal is said to have been working on the script for the past few months and is currently fine-tuning the script. The upcoming film will be the 47th project for People Media Factory and is expected to be made on a grand scale, with plans to release it in multiple languages. While the official announcement regarding the director and storyline is yet to come, the collaboration between SriiMurali and Vishal Atreya is certainly a fresh combination and will pique audiences' interest.

SriiMurali's next projects also include *Paraak*, directed by Halesh Kogundi, with shooting set to begin in March 2025. After that, he will move on to his collaboration with Vishal Atreya.

SriiMurali

Vishal Atreya

The director of *Tatsama Tadbhava*, gets his first big break into directing a star in his next venture, a high-budget film backed by People Media Factory

The enigmatic mystery of *Ramarasa*

Hebah Patel, making her return to Kannada films, stars in director Giriraj BM's upcoming thriller alongside *Bigg Boss* winner Karthik Mahesh

CE FEATURES

HEBAH PATEL, a familiar face in the Kannada film industry thanks to her debut *Adhyaksha*, alongside actor Sharan, quickly won the hearts of audiences with her charm and screen presence. She later garnered recognition for her role in *Kumari 21F*, released both in Kannada and Telugu, where she starred alongside Pranam Devaraj. Known for her versatility, Patel has taken on a range of roles across various languages, and now, she's making a return to Kannada cinema with her new project, *Ramarasa*.

Produced by Guru Deshpande under the banners of G Cinemas and Seven Star Studios, and directed by National Award-winning filmmaker BM Giriraj, *Ramarasa* has completed its shooting phase and is currently in post production. The film is said to be a gripping mix of passion, mystery, and allure, with Patel playing a character that is as enigmatic as it is captivating.

In *Ramarasa*, which features Bigg Boss winner Karthik Mahesh in the lead role, Hebah's character is shrouded in mystery and allure. The makers, who recently unveiled the first look of the actor, describe her role as "the seductive illusion of the netherworld," a character that embodies both beauty and danger. The poetic description of her role adds to the intrigue: "Those who lost to her beauty, those who were swayed by her walk, and those confused by her words... none of them remained on this Earth."

Her character is portrayed as an intoxicating force, likened to the illusion of a bee chasing nectar—forever elusive and dangerously captivating. Filmmaker Guru Deshpande, who is also the creative head of the project, explains that *Ramarasa* delves into themes of desire, mystery, and passion, with Patel at the heart of this emotional storm.

Ramarasa draws inspiration from the rich traditions and stories of Indian mythology, blending epic narratives of fantasy, adventure, morality, love, and optimism. The makers are keen on presenting the film with state-of-the-art technology, and the film has music by BJ Bharath and cinematography by Krishna Kumar.

Karthik Mahesh

Hebah Patel

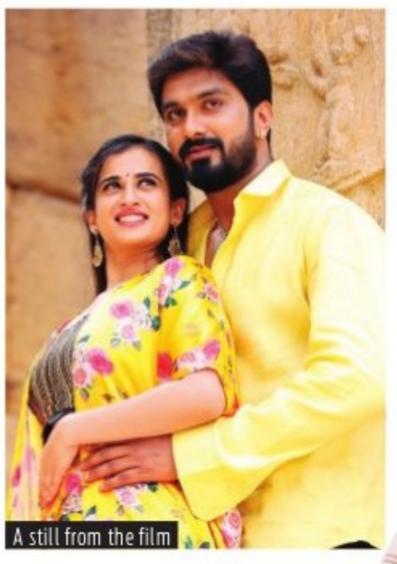
RAJAVARDAN BEGINS 2025 WITH *GAJARAMA* RELEASE

CE FEATURES

RAJAVARDAN, the actor of Bichugatti: Chapter 1 – Dalvayi Dange, is kicking off the new year with the release of his third film, *Gajarama*. Originally scheduled to open in theatres in late 2024, the film's release date has now been moved to February 7, 2025. Directed by Sunil Kumar VA, *Gajarama* marks Rajavardan's debut in a full-fledged action drama.

In this film, billed as a high-octane action entertainer, Thapaswini Poonacha stars opposite Rajavardan, and it features Sisya Deepak in the role of a police officer and Kabir Singh as the antagonist. Additionally, Ragini Dwivedi makes a special appearance in the popular song 'Saarai Shanthamma'.

The film has cinematography by KS Chandrashekar and editing by Gnanesh B Mathad. Produced under the Life Line Film Productions banner, *Gajarama* is being produced by Narasimha Murthy, along with Mallikarjuna Kashi and Xavier Fernandes. With action, drama, and music at its core, *Gajarama* hopes to make an impact on its release.



A still from the film

Shreyas Manju's film *Vishnu Priya* finally set to hit theatres

The film, directed by V.K. Prakash, marks the Kannada debut of Malayalam actress Priya Varrier

CE FEATURES

SHREYAS MANJU'S long-pending film, *Vishnu Priya*, produced by his father, K Manju, has finally locked in its release date for February 21, 2025. Set in the vibrant 1990s, the film offers a nostalgic look at love, family, and sacrifice. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker VK Prakash, who has had a career spanning over 40 films in Malayalam, Telugu, and Tamil cinema, *Vishnu Priya* is attracting attention, especially as it marks the Kannada debut of Malayalam actress Priya Varrier. Together, the director and actor bring a heartfelt love story to the big screen.

The film's emotional depth is further enhanced by the music of Gopi Sundar. The story, written by Sindhushree from Dharwad, revolves around Vishnu, a young man who places immense value on family and is willing to go to any lengths for love. It explores the timeless themes of family bonds, sacrifice, and the strength of love that transcends obstacles.

Alongside the lead cast, the film features Achyuth Kumar as Vishnu's father and Suchendra Prasad as Priya's father. The screenplay and dialogues are penned by director Ravi Srivatsa. The cinematography is handled by Vinod Bharathi, while the editing is done by Suresh Urs.

A still from the film

Documentary on Melania Trump in development

Melania Trump

CE FEATURES

DONALD TRUMP'S wife and erstwhile and incoming First Lady, Melania Trump will be the subject of an upcoming documentary at Amazon. According to an Amazon executive, the documentary will offer never-seen-before exploration of Melania Trump's life. She will also serve as an executive producer on the film, along with Fernando Sulichin of New Element Media. It went on floors last December, a few days after Donald Trump's win in the US presidential elections.

Amazon intends to release it later this year, although the company is yet to finalise release plans. According to reports, the film will hit theatres and a streaming platform. It marks Brett Ratner's return to the director's chair. Ratner has not collaborated on a big Hollywood production following sexual misconduct allegations against him about eight years ago. Interestingly, Ratner's 2011 film *Tower Heist* is set in the Trump International Hotel and Tower.

Prime Video is expected to share further information about the documentary as production is underway.